



CONNECTING FOOD,
LAND AND PEOPLE

The Wallace Centers of Iowa (WCI) is seeking a **Garden Production Manager** who has experience in vegetable/fruit production. This non-profit organization (www.wallace.org) carries on the Wallace family legacy of connecting food, land and people. The two historic locations - the Wallace Farm near Orient and the Wallace House in Des Moines - offer educational programs and community services, produce fruits and vegetables, and provide locally sourced meals. This position is based at the rural Orient location.

Qualifications: Experience in vegetable/fruit gardening; experience with small equipment such as tillers, mowers, small farm tractor and equipment/attachments; good communication skills; and creative problem solving ability. Supervisory and greenhouse experience is a plus.

- Salary Range: \$46,000 to \$52,000 depending on experience
- Benefits: Paid Time Off, Qualified Health Insurance Reimbursement Plan, Professional Development, Learning and Networking Opportunities
- Immediate opening, year-round position

Key components of this position are as follows:

Overview:

The Garden Production Manager will manage the organization's 12 acres of tillable land and orchard including an annual site plan for 1-2 acres of vegetable/herb production for use by our two commercial kitchens, fallow ground, cover crops, and other land use. WCI is in the process of constructing a geothermal greenhouse, so helping the builder on the installation and integrating the facility into food production is a 2023 priority. Coordination with the two Chef/Foods Program Managers, Wallace Farm Site Manager and CEO will be critical.

Responsibilities:

- Manage all aspects of food production - starting plants from seed, using organic farming practices, keep the garden weed-free and attractive, utilize an unheated low hoop house and a shade house, and organize the harvest and delivery schedule.
- Work with chefs at both historic sites to plan produce needed for their kitchens and coordinate harvest and delivery timelines
- Determine how to manage the new geothermal greenhouse and incorporate it into year-round food production.

- Manage the 4-acre Orchard (approximately 175 apple, pear, cherry, and peach trees) with organic practices.
- Maintain yearly production records, ensure compliance with all relevant regulations, adhere to approved annual budget, provide reports to the CEO and board of directors.
- Operate and maintain small farm machinery and equipment.
- Supervise seasonal staff, including interns and occasional volunteers.
- Shared responsibility for 9-acre restored prairie with Site Manager and CEO.
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements

- Familiarity with small/medium scale organic produce production including starting seeds to post harvest handling, horticulture management skills, record keeping, equipment maintenance and experience operating such equipment.
- Self-motivated: ability to recognize what needs to be done and coordinate its completion
- Excellent time-management and organizational skills
- Outstanding verbal communication skills
- Ability to work with diverse and multi-disciplinary teams
- Flexibility and ability to problem solve

Please send a cover letter and resume via mail or email to:

The Wallace Centers of Iowa
Attn: Debra Houghtaling, President/CEO
2773 290th Street
Orient, IA 50858
debrahoughtaling@wallace.org

Job posted: January 5, 2023