

Farm to School Nutrition Field Specialist I
SDSU Extension
South Dakota State University

SDSU Extension is offering an exciting career opportunity as a Farm to School Nutrition Field Specialist I. We are looking for a creative and innovative professional who will provide leadership to the development and dissemination of research-based programming and resources in support of the integration of local food production into school nutrition and community-based nutrition programs. This is a 12 month, full-time, benefit-eligible position based at the Pierre Regional Extension Center. This position is supervised by the Department Head of Nutrition and Health Sciences at SDSU in collaboration with the Food and Families Program Director with SDSU Extension.

SDSU is especially interested in candidates that can contribute to the experiences of underrepresented minorities in organizations. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Farm to School Nutrition Field Specialist I will be responsible for development and dissemination of research-based programming and resources in support of the integration of local food production into school nutrition and community-based nutrition programs. This includes efforts such as: coordinating an internal Farm to School leadership team to plan program growth and sustainability; promote producer engagement and adoption of farm to child nutrition programs through technical assistance and training; support food skills development with a focus on cultivating school gardens and nutrition education in schools; provide support and technical assistance directly related to local food procurement; provide support to engaging the network of child nutrition programs and early childhood education programs as collaborative partners in the Farm To School movement; work with schools to promote and adopt the new South Dakota Farm to School Guidebook; assist with the implementation and evaluation efforts of high tunnels located throughout South Dakota; improve organizational capacity (human and financial) to implement farm to school in school communities with >50% free/reduced meals and provide facilitation support, network weaving and content expertise to schools, producers and other SDSU Extension staff members.

The eligible candidate will travel extensively to build strong relationships with specialty producer groups, schools, community groups, and governmental agencies to identify ongoing and emerging needs regarding local foods and farm to school initiatives. This includes:

- Implement proactive problem-solving approaches to identified stakeholder issues, needs, and topics.
- Exercise communication and facilitation skills in working with appropriate discipline and topic focused organizations and groups.
- Commit 20% of work time and effort to creating and delivering technological outreach through the Extension web portal <https://extension.sdstate.edu>.
- Commit to regional and statewide program delivery strategies and the intent to create enthusiastic implementation among state and local stakeholders.

- Develop and implement presentations, workshops, and training to diverse audiences.
- Develop and implement evaluation tools for measuring and reporting program impact.
- Utilize and implement program business plans to manage projects and programs.
- Develop grants and/or cost recovery mechanisms to assist with program sustainability.
- Establish strong collaborative partnerships.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Master's degree from an accredited university or college; academic preparation and demonstrated scholarly mastery in a discipline relevant to nutrition, dietetics, horticulture, or other related disciplines completed by the first day of employment.
- Demonstrated experience in application of group facilitation and/or volunteer management principles.
- Demonstrated ability to plan, implement, and evaluate educational materials and deliver effective programs.
- Demonstrated use of technology in managing and/or delivering educational programs.
- Demonstrated ability to work as a team member.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in oral and written communications.
- Valid driver's license, or ability to obtain one within 30 days of hire, and willingness to travel.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Previous Extension experience.
- Demonstrated leadership in developing or leading learning communities.
- Demonstrated leadership and teamwork with stakeholders.
- Demonstrated collaboration in developing funding proposals to support new and/or enhanced programming.
- Experience in publishing extension materials and/or peer reviewed journals.

SALARY:

Commensurate with qualifications.

BENEFITS:

South Dakota State University offers a wide range of benefits including medical, dental, and flexible benefits, retirement plans, compensation packages, paid holidays, and vacation leave. Employees also have access to internal and state-sponsored training as well as reduced tuition for state-supported courses at all State of South Dakota academic institutions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Position is open until filled with full consideration given to applications received by **October 2, 2020.**

APPLICATION PROCESS:

SDSU accepts applications through an on-line employment site. To apply, visit: <https://yourfuture.sdbor.edu>, search by the position title, view the job announcement, and click on “apply for this job.” This system will guide you through the electronic application form. This employment site will also require the attachment of a cover letter, which should specifically address how the candidate meets the qualifications as outlined in the advertisement, resume, and a reference page with the contact information for three professional references. Email applications will not be accepted. Please contact SDSU Human Resources at (605) 688-4128 if you require assistance with this process.

Any offer of employment is contingent on the university’s verification of credentials and other information required by law and/or university policies, including but not limited to, a criminal background check.

South Dakota State University is a tobacco free environment.

It is the policy of the University to maintain a drug-free environment and to thereby establish, promote, and maintain a safe and healthy working and learning environment for employees and students. This position is subject to South Dakota State University’s Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy 4:14.

For questions on the position contact Megan Jacobson at 605-995-7378 or megan.jacobson@sdstate.edu.

South Dakota State University is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its faculty, staff, and students. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Arrangements for accommodations required by disabilities can be made by emailing HR@sdstate.edu. SDSU prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, gender, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran’s status or any other protected class in the offering of all educational programs and employment opportunities. Individuals with concerns regarding discrimination should contact: Equal Opportunity Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Human Resources, Morrill Hall 100, SDSU, Brookings, SD 57007. Phone: (605) 688-4128.

