

The Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) Position Announcement

Title: Agricultural Education Coordinator

Status: Full-time

Exempt Status: Exempt

Organization: ALBA is a community-based non profit organization whose **mission** is to advance economic viability, social equity and ecological land management among limited-resource and aspiring farmers on California's Central Coast. We do this through the provision of training, demonstration, technical and marketing assistance, and access to land, at our two bilingual education centers. Serving a primarily Latino audience, ALBA's work is grounded by the belief that in order for limited-resource and aspiring farmers to gain a foothold within California's highly competitive agricultural sector, they must have access to information, capital and land – and initially, reduced-risk farming and business incubation opportunities. In carrying out its mission, ALBA aims to contribute to a more just and sustainable food system.

Responsibilities:

The Ag Education Coordinator will be responsible for carrying out the two main adult education programs of ALBA, in close collaboration with the RDC and FTRC Field Education/Farm Managers, and reporting to the Program Director. The first program is PEPA (Programa Educativo para Pequeños Agricultores – or Small Farmer Education Program), which has been offered since 1985 and is the longest running program of ALBA. This program focuses on teaching a comprehensive classroom and field curriculum on organic farming for aspiring farmers, farm workers, and new/transitioning organic farmers. The classes are taught in both Spanish and English during the winter months. The second program, Ag Matters, is an annual workshop series geared towards existing farmers to provide continuing education on agronomic skills and the administration of their farm businesses. There is particular focus on farm practices to protect water quality. The coordinator is not expected to teach all of the material, but will work to develop lesson plans, curriculum, and organize dynamic speakers. This position would also be responsible for coordinating K-12 farm field trips on an occasional basis, and act as a liaison with local colleges and universities agriculture programs. Position would supervise 1-3 interns and/or volunteers. To learn more about these two programs, visit our website at www.albafarmers.org.

Qualifications:

Both programs require experience and proficiency with adult education teaching methodologies. Skill with designing curriculum, teaching materials, and conducting classes to meet learning objectives and reach a wide-variety of learning styles is a must. Our students/farmers have a diverse range of education levels, with some having a low-level of formal education. For that reason, understanding how to integrate hands-on, interactive teaching methods as well as develop literacy among the students is important to this position. A background in agriculture is desired but not required, however a

passion for farming and/or gardening is essential.. A Master's degree and 3-5 years of experience is desired or 3-5 years experience with a Bachelor's degree. Candidate must be bilingual/biliterate in Spanish and English. Candidate also must be able to work outdoors in potentially inclement weather.

Compensation:

Annual salary range is \$40,000 - \$45,000, depending on experience. This is an Exempt position. ALBA offers a comprehensive benefits package including employer-paid health insurance premium for employees and subsidized premiums for dependents, Simplified Employee Pension with employer-contribution, access to employee-funded 403b retirement plan, and 2.5 weeks paid vacation during the first year of employment .

Location:

This position is based at ALBA's Rural Development Center, our farm located 10 miles south of Salinas, CA. Nearby towns include Salinas, Monterey, Watsonville, Prunedale, and Seaside. Position would share a large office in our strawbale resource center with several other staff members.

To Apply:

Please send letter, resume, and three references to Search Committee, ALBA, PO Box 6264, Salinas, CA 93912, email rebecca@albafarmers.org, or fax to 831-758-3665.

Deadline for submission is August 4, 2006 or until position is filled. ALBA is an equal opportunity employer, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sexual orientation, or otherwise. ALBA is a drug-free work place.