August 11, 2020

Dear Interested Applicant,

How to Apply:

Send a cover letter, resume, two letters of recommendation and answers to the following questions (please limit your response to questions to two pages) to the Petroleum County Conservation District, P.O. Box 118, Winnett, MT 59087 or via email to petroleumcd@midrivers.com. Applications are due by Wednesday, September 2 by 5pm MST.

1. Please describe any experience that you have working in a ranching community or with ranchers.

2. Please describe what you think would be most valuable about a beginning rancher education program.

3. This project includes working with several partner entities, please list a few partners that you feel would be valuable to bring to the discussion and why.

4. What challenges do you perceive for this job and how would you handle those challenges?

Questions? Contact Laura Nowlin, BeefMT Project Director – 406-429-4832, info@winnettaces.org

Anticipated start date is October 1, 2020 and is negotiable.
Job Title: BeefMT Project Manager

Project Background:

The Petroleum County Conservation District (PCCD) has been awarded a USDA Beginning Farmer/Rancher Development Program Grant and will work through the Winnett ACES to create an educational program for beginning ranchers in eastern Montana. Grant funds will be used to hire a project manager. The Project Manager will work with existing partners in MSU Extension, the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program, South Dakota State University Extension, and Plank Stewardship Initiative. An Advisory Committee, composed of agricultural industry partners and young and experienced ranchers, will guide the development of a curriculum for BeefMT, a multi-year educational program focused for ranchers in central and eastern Montana with 10 years or less experience in ranch management.

Job Description:

The Winnett ACES with Petroleum County Conservation District (PCCD) will hire a project manager to develop a multi-year education program for beginning ranchers (BeefMT). This person will work with the Winnett ACES Education Committee, the ACES Board of Directors, and the PCCD Board of Supervisors.

Responsibilities:

1. Establish an advisory committee representing a broad range of partnerships: agencies, non-governmental organizations, University educators, community-based collaboratives, and beginning and experienced beef producers to guide the future direction of BeefMT.
2. Develop a comprehensive, multi-year curriculum for beginning ranchers, which provides knowledge and resources in the areas of transition planning, range management, land acquisition, livestock nutrition, financial planning, ag policy, and marketing.
3. Determine the most appropriate approach for implementing BeefMT, to accommodate our large region and create an accessible program for all participants.
4. During the one-year simplified grant period, submit a proposal for funding to fully implement the developed BeefMT program.

Necessary Skills and Knowledge:

- Knowledge of rural communities in the west.
- General knowledge of the agriculture industry.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Comfort with public speaking and making presentations.
- Excel, Word, Powerpoint and general computer skills.

It is expected that the project manager will use a personal computer and phone and will work remotely. The coordinator will use his/her own vehicle; however, travel costs will be paid by the PCCD at the state mileage and per diem rates.

Term: This position is 20 hours per week until September 14, 2021. There is the potential for this position to become full-time and extend the term.

Compensation: $18-20/hour

Contact: Laura Nowlin, BeefMT Project Director – 406-429-4832, info@winnettaces.org