



IN HARMONY FARM 2025 SPECIALTY CROP AGRONOMY FELLOW

In Harmony Farm (IHF) is an innovative farm model working to uplift historically underserved specialty crop farmers in central-Iowa through its Beginning Farmer Program (BFP). Situated on a 70-acre tapestry of tillable ground, prairie, forest, and waterways, the IHF bridges the gap between urban gardening and small-scale/conventional specialty crop farming. IHF has twelve crop-ready plots, ranging from one to five acres, available to beginning farmers. Farmers receive affordable access to land and materials, hands-on instruction that builds regenerative farming skills, access to technical assistance to support business development, expanded markets, and the opportunity to scale production gradually. This program minimizes the need for up-front capital investment, allows farmers to grow family income while reducing financial risk, and builds long-term financial independence. After completion of the 5-year program, IHF secures long-term land access for its graduates to move their operations to. Technical assistance support for the farmers continues as they transition from the main campus to long-term parcels.

In Harmony Farm seeks a graduate level Specialty Crop Agronomy Fellow to mentor farmers to maximize yields, promote healthy soils and waters, and provide healthy and nutritious produce into the local food system. A USDA Climate Smart Commodities (CSC) grant, in addition to support from a private donor, will fund this ongoing position.

Fellow will work in conjunction with another IHF staff member to collect relevant data for the CSC grant. CultivateAI, a CSC grant partner, will provide digital farm imagery for each of the farm parcels. This imagery will visually layer crops and yields with regenerative agriculture practices utilized by each farm family.

The Fellow position will report to the Executive Director and work predominately during the growing season but will include work in the off-season as well. Pre-season planning will include a minimum of 1 in-person meeting with farmers in central-Iowa (late winter) and additional virtual meetings and electronic correspondence, as needed, in anticipation of spring planting. Post-season work will include seasonal wrap up conversations and assessments. Fellow will be working with up to 12 farm families and their individual plans and parcels to achieve the objectives outlined above. When appropriate, interpretation services will be provided. While the farmers aren't certified organic, they farm organically.

Fellow must reside in central-Iowa during the growing season (May 15 – August 30).

Job Responsibilities:

- Pre-Season:
 - Review soil types by parcel and advise on appropriate crops
 - Interpret soils testing and advise on remediation and or soil health practices
 - Review previous years' planting maps and advise on upcoming seasonal rotations
 - Advise on inter-seasonal crop rotations and plantings
 - Advise on nutrient management
 - Advise on pollination plans

- Growing Season:
 - Observe farmers' fields weekly and daily
 - Advise and teach pest control options
 - Advise and teach disease management practices
 - Advise and teach weed pressure and management techniques
 - Advise and teach irrigation best practices
 - Advise and teach harvesting techniques
 - Assist in collecting data for Climate Smart Commodities grant
 - Collect individual farm yield data
- Post-Season work:
 - Review successes and challenges of the growing season
 - Schedule soils testing
 - Advise on cover crops and over-winter parcel management
 - Advise on soil nutrient management
 - Advise on fall plantings

Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to Andy Behnke, Executive Director, with questions regarding this position. Cover letters and resumes, directed to Mr. Behnke, must be received on/before November 15th, 2025.

Andy Behnke, Executive Director
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In Harmony Farm is a 501c3 organization.
www.inharmonyfarm.org