



Job Opening: Agroforestry Specialist

SILT is seeking research-oriented applicants passionate about expanding sustainable agroforestry practices on Iowa land. All qualified applicants welcome; farmers and members of under-represented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Organization Description

The Sustainable Iowa Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land trust that permanently protects land to grow healthy food through the use of conservation easements and land donations. Launched in 2015, SILT now protects 935 acres across 9 farms in Iowa. SILT farmers grow table food sustainably, based on SILT's sustainability guidelines and requirements and a farmer's choice of proven third-party certifications. Agroforestry is one of the most sustainable ways to grow food and tends to attract landowners with a long-term vision that fits well with SILT's mission of protecting land in perpetuity.

Agroforestry Specialist Position

The Agroforestry Specialist is a half-time position that may become full-time as a result of successful outreach. The Specialist will research, analyze and write up reports related to funding sources that help landowners and farmers cash flow agroforestry projects and then assist in public outreach.

This person will be expected to:

- Work with SILT and Savanna Institute staff to develop and implement a research program that determines all public and private sources for cash flowing agroforestry in Iowa.
- Research policies and practices in Iowa and surrounding states to develop a report and tools for use by the public that will encourage implementation of agroforestry in Iowa.
- Learn and be able to articulate SILT's mission, vision and work.
- Work with farmers to develop case studies of cash flowing agroforestry in various stages of development.
- Supervise the creation of interactive online tools for landowners and producers to help them determine how they can cash flow agroforestry.
- In partnership with farmer hosts, coordinate field days to demonstrate agroforestry in action.
- Once research is completed, coordinate and participate in outreach, including presenting at conferences and meetings, talking with the press and engaging social media as necessary.
- Collect, analyze and report data related to farmer and landowner participation in the project.

Required Qualifications:

- Knowledge of agroforestry, forestry, grazing or other agricultural practices.
- Experience in business, non-profit, public, and/or academic sectors.

- Experience in online research, surveys and phone interviews.
- Experience working with a variety of stakeholders.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills.
- Commitment to participating as a team member of a small organization.
- Ability to absorb complex information such as that related to private investment, public agricultural programs and tax incentives and distill it for public consumption.
- Passion for SILT's mission.

Ideal candidates will:

- Have experience in agroforestry, grazing, forestry or other agricultural practices.
- Be located in Iowa or nearby in a surrounding state.
- Be able to design blended finance strategies for perennial agricultural enterprises.
- Have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a related field.
- Be self-motivated and organized, able to meet and exceed expectations on time, whether working from home or in an office setting.

Salary and Benefits

Half-time salary starts at \$19,000. Due to its small payroll, SILT does not yet offer health or retirement benefits. Hours are flexible. SILT offers 3 weeks of Paid Time Off and 10 paid holidays starting in the first year.

How To Apply

Submit a resume to suzan@silt.org with a cover letter explaining why you are the best candidate for this position.

Timeline

This is a rolling application, so apply ASAP for consideration. We expect to fill this position no later than Oct. 1, 2020.

Questions?

Email Executive Director Suzan Erem suzan@silt.org.

Diversity Commitment

The Sustainable Iowa Land Trust affirms the value of representation and diversity of staff and stakeholders, and aims to foster inclusive environments. We seek individuals who are committed to these goals.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Opportunity is and shall be provided for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without unlawful discrimination on the basis of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law.