



The Community Farm, Chew Valley – seeking up to three new management committee members;

Want to do something really positive and learn more about the food and farming movement at the same time? If the answer is ‘yes’ then read on.

It’s that time of year when The Community Farm recruits new people to maintain the strength of its all-important management committee (MC).

You will be joining a strong team of energetic and enthusiastic committee members who work closely with our senior staff team. The committee is responsible for governance, rather than operations, but as a small and young organization we are closely involved in the life of the Farm.

We are particularly looking for an accountant and a lawyer to join the committee.

If this might be you we would love to hear from you! Please contact our current Chairperson [Angela Raffle](#).

What is The Community Farm?

The Community Farm is a not-for-profit organic farm. We grow, source and deliver local organic and climate-friendly food across Bristol, Bath, Chew Valley, Frome, Weston-super-Mare and places in between. Our aim is to reconnect people with land and food, and to care for the natural world - of which we are a part. Our purpose is to nurture relationships through our organic farm. Every year over fifteen hundred people benefit physically and mentally from courses, events and volunteering at The Farm.

The Community Farm Facts

- We were founded in 2010 by local volunteers motivated by concerns about climate change, biodiversity loss, and social justice

- We registered as a Community Benefit Society in 2010, ran a successful Community Share Offer attracting 400+ shareholder members, and launched in April 2011 renting our 14 acre site from the local farmer who also helped us found The Farm.
- Starting with empty fields and a cold tap, we now have 5 polytunnels, propagation tunnel, warehouse, yurt, roundhouse, learning area with growing forest garden, field kitchen, homes and hotels for wildlife and more
- We deliver Veg Boxes to over 600 (900 in lockdown!) homes, and deliver wholesale fruit and veg to over 20 local businesses a week
- We run between 5 and 10 community sessions a week; from field volunteering to events hosted by members of our local community
- We generate over £1million a year in sales turnover and employ over 30 local people
- We work with a variety of funders to raise grants and donations for our work as a social enterprise welcoming people onto the land

What does the role of MC member involve?

The full management committee meets once every two months at The Farm or via online meeting. There are smaller groups (“subgroups”), each involving key staff plus one or more MC members - this is where the real work tends to happen. The groups relate to each of our strategic ‘strands’ (food, farming, wildlife, communities), as well as Communications, Business/Finance/Fundraising, People/Policies/Governance, and Landlord/Tenant. These groups meet quarterly or monthly.

Reflecting its roots as a project created by ecological activists, the working culture at the Farm aspires to be collaborative, less hierarchical than some traditional businesses, and to use conflict constructively. Our committee members are a key part of The Farm, and need to be happy working alongside our staff and other volunteers collaboratively.

On average the role adds up to about one day per month of work. Some committee members choose to do more, and some are regularly involved as field, wildlife or warehouse volunteers also. Further details about the role, which is unpaid, are in the Role Description (see PDF below).

What skills are we looking for?

- Our agricultural lawyer committee member has had to stand down recently for health reasons, so we are looking for a new lawyer.
- Our accountant MC member will be taking on the Chair role so we need another accountant member to help with financial governance.

What are the benefits of becoming a MC member?

Our existing committee members tell us they love being part of a project with a deep sense of purpose and values. They describe it as an extraordinary project created by a whole lot of ordinary people. They appreciate learning about food, farming and wildlife. They feel positive about helping demonstrate that a better approach to the production, sale and enjoyment of food is indeed possible. They love the teamwork, the opportunities to spend time on the field as well as ‘in the committee room’, the sense of achievement and the occasional seasonal celebration.

How do I find out more?

- The first step is to get in touch and we'll arrange a chat with the Chair of Management Committee.
- We host a special 'Find out about the Farm' session for prospective committee members to come and visit, meet some of the existing team and find out more about how we work.
- You can also visit us at other times if you give us plenty of notice.
- We then invite you to 'sit-in' on the Management Committee meetings in July or September.
- If you decide the role is for you we need a short paragraph (deadline end of September) to send to the membership of the Farm ahead of our Annual General Meeting in November.
- Once on the committee, we have a 'buddying' system, induction information, an annual review process and we also run governance training/refresher sessions from time to time.

The Community Farm is a fantastic organisation, and I'm so pleased to have been able to play a very small part in helping the amazing work. This has been my first governance committee role and the lovely (and experienced) existing members were incredibly supportive and patient whilst I was learning the ropes. The Farm is an inspiring, peaceful place run by genuinely passionate, committed people. I am really enjoying being part of something bigger and very different from the legal work that I deal with day-to-day. Being involved with The Farm has been a really excellent experience.

Maddie Dunn, former MC Member

From all of us at The Community Farm - we look forward to meeting you soon!

Contact details;

either;

Angela Raffle (Chair) angelaraffle@hotmail.com or

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[Job description](#)