

Trust Manager
Food and Farming Discovery Trust
Full time (part time considered)
£35,000 pa FTE
(Initial period of 12 months with a view
to securing a 3-year contract and
subject to ongoing funding)
Closing date: Monday 24 January
2022



The Opportunity

Do you want to make a real impact and help transform how current and future generations see and understand food, farming, and the countryside as we move to a more sustainable world? There has never been a more challenging or important time to raise interest throughout society and the Food and Farming Discovery Trust (FFDT) are passionate to fulfil this need.

Formed in 2016, we are a small educational charity that is looking for an exceptional, motivated and experienced individual to take forward the work that we began a few years ago, helping people to better understand and engage with food, farming and the countryside. The FFDT Trust Manager will work closely with the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association team, and partners, to deliver projects which range from the creation of funding bids right through to evaluation reporting after project delivery.

In this unique role, based at the RNAA offices at the Norfolk Showground (NR5 0TT) near Norwich, you will manage the day to day running of the charity and very much become the face of the FFDT.

The role will involve occasional travel throughout East Anglia to events and to visit partners and also to grow the network, so some flexibility is required. This position requires good organisational and communication skills but also welcomes innovation and creativity of approach so access to mentoring and personal development will be supported

History

In its first few years of operation the Trust has developed novel educational initiatives targeting a range of ages from children at primary school through to students at secondary schools, and those aged 16-18 years old studying at colleges of further education:

- The annual Science of Farming events held at the Norfolk Showground and Holkham Estate attract primary schools from across the county. Many hundreds of children have experienced hands-on activities that focus on the science and technology of food and farming and demonstrate the creativity and innovation needed in agriculture.

- The hugely popular Learn about Livestock programme enables children to experience animal husbandry first-hand in their own school setting. This unique project was developed in partnership with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Chapelfield Vets, LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and Ben Burgess and provides primary schools with livestock, equipment and training to care for a ewe and her lambs for a week.
- Conscious Consumers was developed specifically to appeal to older students from years 9 to 13, stimulating interest in topical issues that span the boundaries of agriculture, food and society. Digital resources introduce plant-based diets, personalised nutrition and food miles and three new modules on climate change, animal welfare and rewilding are being developed, all with a mix of activities and video content from experts.

The creation of these events and resources was made possible through effective partnership working. We identified gaps in current provision and focused our efforts on employing novel approaches to bring food and farming-related topics to young people in fresh, new ways. This has been supported by the creation of a mobile classroom enabling us to take activities out on tour. Increasingly, the Trust finds itself engaging with young people as they consider skills and career options in the region's agri-food sector.

Our Vision for the East document (available on request) will tell you more about our aims and ambitions.

Trust Manager Role

You will be responsible for:

- Day-to-day management of the FFDT's activities, creation and coordination of projects and deliverables, working with partners and collaborators as well as supporters and audiences – including the region's citizens, farmers and growers – to expand the Trust's impact and identify new opportunities;
- Taking a hands-on lead in the planning and delivery of the education content of RNAA events and activities, including the Royal Norfolk Show, and the Norfolk Skills and Careers Festival;
- Assisting the development of networks between schools, colleges, farmers and agricultural organisations;
- Identification and co-ordination of fundraising activities;
- Creating or identifying and disseminating resources – print and digital, communicating and promoting the work of the Trust, co-ordinating the content of the Trust's Digital Hub;

- Providing a central point of contact for the coordination of Trust activities, coordinating the activities of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Group, liaising with members of the Advisory Group and other stakeholders;
- Collaborating widely to ensure that best practice is shared and adopted;
- With guidance from trustees, overseeing governance, ensuring the Trust complies with Charity Commission guidance and other regulatory requirements.

Person specification

We are looking for a person with enthusiasm, potential and an understanding of food, farming and education.

Educated to degree/diploma level you will have well-honed interpersonal skills and be able to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing. As the person at the centre of the Trust, this will be a role with profile and requiring someone who has the foresight and the ability to ensure that our activities are well planned and well delivered. You will engage sensitively and effectively with our stakeholders providing them with the confidence and enthusiasm to support the Trust.

In return for your commitment we will actively develop you, enable you to join a contributory pension scheme and provide you with mentoring, personal development and generous annual leave.

Application process

Please apply in writing, outlining why you feel you might be suitable for this role, including:

- an up-to-date curriculum vitae / resume (of no more than 2 pages);
- a statement (of no more than 2 pages) explaining why you are interested in this role, how your strengths and experience make you suitable for it and what you feel you could bring to this role;
- contact details for two referees (references will not be taken up without prior permission).

Closing date for applications: 1700 hours Monday 24 January 2022. Interviews are likely to held in Norwich in late January or early February 2022.

Applications should be sent by email to Mark Nicholas, RNAA Managing Director and to whom any questions should be directed.

Contact: mark.nicholas@rnaa.org.uk
01603 731961

By Post: Marked "Private and Confidential"
Mark Nicholas, Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association,

Norfolk Showground, Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk NR5 0TT.

The Food & Farming Discovery Trust is an equal opportunities employer. No agencies please.