

The Conservation Fund: Working Farms Fund Program

Host Community Project Lead(s): The Conservation Fund: Krisztian Varsa, Stacy Funderburke

Physical Project Work Location: Primarily remote. Dependent on COVID restrictions, a downtown Atlanta office may be available for limited access.

Project Description: This summer intern project will be hosted by The Conservation Fund's Working Farms Fund Program. The Conservation Fund is launching an innovative program to build a healthier, more equitable, and resilient food system around sustainable farm businesses. Utilizing a revolving fund model, we will permanently protect significant farmland across metropolitan foodsheds and create opportunities for ambitious, diverse farmers to scale up sustainable local food production.

The primary aim of this summer internship is to provide research, data collection, outreach and program development guidance to extend our capacity for metric-based reporting and increase access to technology for small to mid-size farms in the Working Farms Fund program. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Project Learning Goals: Interns will gain a critical understanding of the complexity of building a resilient local food system, the challenges of creating farm businesses that meet the growing demand for food and help establish critical metrics for monitoring the success of the program. Interns will have opportunities to meet and better understand market opportunities and help develop systems that will lead to expansion of the local food system. Learning goals will include 1) building an understanding of the local food system, 2) understanding the effectiveness of different small to midsize on farm technologies 3) understanding the methods of monitoring and implementing an agricultural reporting tool, 4) understanding the landscape of farming across the state of Georgia.

Top Desired Intern Skills: Knowledge and experience in research, database building, an understanding of environmental/agriculture/climate issues, an understanding of the

role of land use decisions and historic land access issues for underserved farming groups, and/or Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Intern Deliverables:

- Working with the Partnership for Inclusive Innovation and Working Farms Fund project partners, develop a review of potential sustainable farming technologies for small- to mid-size farms in Georgia
- Assess and revise program monitoring and evaluation tools and processes to maximize critical data collection in the early stages of program roll out
- Summary of farmer outreach to assess farmer needs
- Report on Local/State Programmatic Support for BIPOC farmers
- Mapping of key farmlands and focus areas for future farm identification