



KANSAS RURAL CENTER

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September 17, 2019

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Kansas Rural Center (KRC), a nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization promoting a sustainable agriculture and food system, seeks applicants for Executive Director. Since 1979, the Kansas Rural Center has worked to strengthen independent family farms and rural communities. KRC strives to increase ecological farming opportunities that protect the environment and natural resource base, while providing farmers a fair livelihood. In recent years, KRC has expanded its vision to include local and regional food systems and areas of economic development, including renewable energy systems and specialty crop farming. KRC envisions a new social contract that enhances the partnership between rural and urban people, emphasizing appropriately sized, environmentally sound food systems and natural resource stewardship that benefits all citizens.

For 40 years, KRC has been the voice for alternative and sustainable agriculture and food systems in the state of Kansas, responding to issues such soil health, pesticide use, pollinators, enterprise diversity, economic concentration, community vitality, beginning farmer issues, climate change, and the direction of federal and state farm and food policy. KRC administers projects promoting: 1) ecological farming and ranching practices—working directly with farm families to adopt management practices that enhance sustainability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, pollinator habitat, and soil health and diversity; 2) development of local food systems—working with policy makers, specialty crop producers, advocacy networks, and consumers and 3) community health —working with community members, local governments and other rural organizations to support vibrant rural communities. KRC is also active in monitoring federal farm and food policy, as well as state level policies.

The Executive Director is responsible for overall programmatic, personnel, administrative and financial matters of the organization. He/she is also the public face and spokesperson for the organization. The Executive Director works closely with the employed and contracted staff to carry out programming commitments, goals and objectives. He/she works with the Board of Directors to fund the organization, develop and set policies and issue positions, and lead the programmatic direction of KRC. The Executive Director must share the philosophical concerns and positions of the Kansas Rural Center and support its mission.

Skills, Experience and Attributes of a successful applicant:

- Demonstrated commitment to ecological, regenerative agriculture and a sustainable food system based on local and regional production and consumption;

- Financial and budget management, personnel management, and broad-based administrative experience in a nonprofit organization, or similar business experience; including an advanced understanding of grant and contract administration and fiscal management;
- Demonstrable effective fundraising and grant-writing experience;
- Superior writing and communication skills, including public speaking;
- The ability to work and lead in a collaborative manner;
- Ability to coordinate staff and partners using current technologies, creative communication processes, including face-to-face meetings, email, and telecommunication applications, such as Zoom.
- The ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse groups and individuals;
- Creative thinking and diligent planning;
- Experience/interest in public policy issues related to food and agriculture, natural resources, and rural development;
- Self-motivated, and able to motivate others;

Qualifications:

- A relevant academic degree is preferred.
- Leadership experience in nonprofit, business, or organizational management.
- Substantial experience in Midwest US agriculture, food systems, rural development, and/or natural resource management.

Salary and benefits: \$45,000-\$55,000 **Location:** Home office.

Questions or further information: Stu Shafer, President, Board of Directors
sandheron@icloud.com, 785-691-5006

To Apply: Send letter of interest, resume, and two writing samples.

We prefer electronic submission sent to: jobs@kansasruralcenter.org

Applications will be accepted until October 30.

The Kansas Rural Center is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.