

# Urban Farmer



THE PRACTICE OF CULTIVATING, PROCESSING, AND DISTRIBUTING FOOD IN OR AROUND URBAN AREAS



Agtech Career Series in partnership with



## Using Space More Efficiently While Promoting Socioeconomic Diversity

*The definition of a farm is changing. With the implementation of new technologies like robotics, drones, and even gene editing, farmers can embrace innovation and seek better and more modern ways to produce crops. Urban farming is one such innovation that has grown popular over the last 10 to 15 years. With more focus on global challenges like feeding growing communities, space issues and a need to proliferate healthy food, urban farming presents several benefits over conventional agriculture.*



Hands-On



Creative



Flexible

# Improving Access to Healthy Food

CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WHILE IMPACTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION

## THE FUNCTION OF AN URBAN FARM

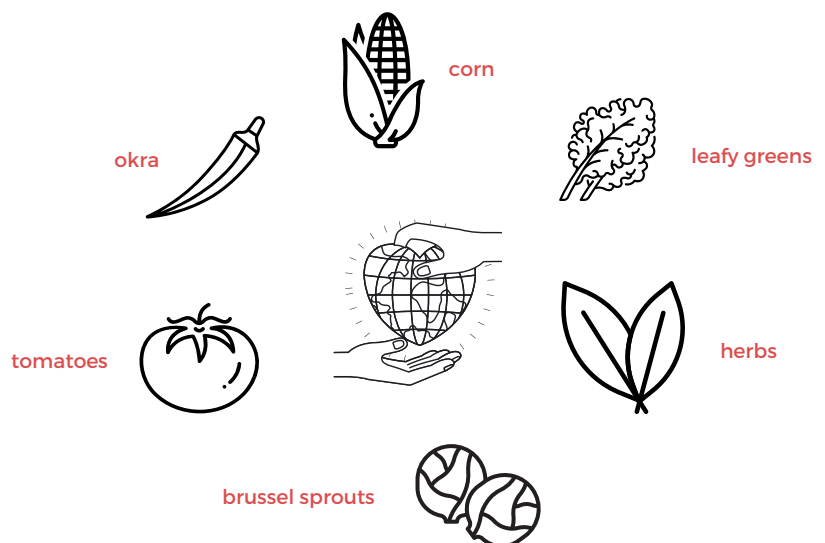
Urban farms are built for multiple reasons. One reason is for education; another is for training or re-entry programs. In any case, urban farms are designed to help improve food access or even continue the culinary practices of different cultures! Since food is mainly grown for sale, urban farming can enhance the local food economy by creating environmentally-friendly jobs in food retail, distribution and processing. It can also help strengthen skills and shorten food supply chains. A lot of urban farms are non-profit, but some are built for profit. Either way, food justice is an essential component.

## WHAT IS FOOD JUSTICE?

Farming is a beautiful activity that reaps many rewards. Farmers are proud of their work and strive to grow the best products to feed people across many different backgrounds. Food justice, then, is an appropriate right where we as people are entitled to grow, sell and eat healthy food. Healthy food is essential because it contributes toward healthier populations – groups of individuals taking advantage of fresh, nutritious, and locally grown food, all with care in mind of the land, the people cultivating and eating the food and the animals.

It isn't easy to extract ourselves from 'the power of food'. That is part of the reason why farmers do what they do. Food can and does change the world, and that's what gives it such unbelievable power. We become a part of food's role in creating sustenance and connections to our culture, social networks and the earth. It represents family and is part of how we communicate with one another. In essence, it is an extension of love, and for this reason, food justice is critical because, as a practice, it vitally connects us to one another.

What kind of food would you grow in your urban farm? Can you put together an entire meal with the ingredients?



# Job Description

## MANAGE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION WHILE MAINTAINING THE FARM SITE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### CORE FUNCTIONS

- Operates, maintains and repairs farming **machinery**
- Handles, maintains and repairs a drip **irrigation** system
- Works according to a **flexible** schedule based on program and farm needs
- Lifts up to 40 lbs and performs **strenuous** work outdoors
- Works **independently** and as part of a small team
- Works in the summer heat and cold winter **conditions**
- Organizes, prioritizes, multi-tasks, delegates, and solves problems all within a **fast-paced** and continuously changing environment
- Enjoys working in a grassroots, non-profit environment with a **diverse** group of people
- Has one year or more of experience **supervising** staff and organizing farm work
- Has two years or more of **applied** farming skills

### SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Excellent **communication skills** (oral and written)
- Experience in **aquaponics** and/or **hydroponics**
- Experience in **farm teaching** and **gardening**
- Highly **organized** and **efficient**; cares for the environment
- **Creative** and **flexible** in finding and implementing solutions

### Requirement

In addition to hands-on work, you will need strong organizational skills and the ability to follow routines. To ensure that crops grow well, a background in botany, traditional agriculture, horticulture, and engineering will help. Urban farmers range from skilled teachers to those with interests in food and nutrition.

### Tip

An urban farm looks after the soil, composting systems, chicken coops, hydroponics, aquaponics, rooftop gardens, and greenhouses. You must have extensive knowledge of growing edibles and taking care of animals such as chickens. Day-to-day, you will look after planting, daily upkeep, maintenance and basic repairs.

### Salary

\$42,000 - \$45,000 or \$23.08 per hour