

# Sterling College

Working Hands. Working Minds.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Faculty in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems/Draft Animal Educator

The Draft Animal Educator is a member of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems faculty and reports to the Dean of Academics. The Draft Animal Educator is responsible for the direct instruction of courses that lead to a minor in Draft Animal Power Systems with an expected teaching workload that also includes instruction in woodlot management and practices and other courses that are part of the sustainable agriculture and food systems curriculum.

#### The Draft Animal Educator's primary responsibilities include:

- A three-course progression in *Draft Animal Power Systems*;
- Supporting or directly instructing *Woodlot Practices* and *Holistic Forest Management*;
- Assisting with the summer *Integrated Farming Practicum*;
- Directly teaching or supporting one or more courses offered through The School of the New American Farmstead, Sterling College's continuing education program;
- Potentially instructing *Farrier Science* and *Cattle Hoof Trimming*;
- A shared role in teaching *Foundations of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems*, part of the College-wide foundational curriculum.

#### Additional responsibilities include:

- Direct management of the Alford Draft Horse Barn which houses draft horses and oxen;
- Supervision and direction of the Livestock Manager with regard to the care and well-being of the draft animals.
- Working closely with students on academic advising and independent projects;
- Supervising students participating in the College's Work Program;
- Regular service on committees.

Other valued qualities/skills for this position include outdoor living skills, a strong connection to the environmental humanities, and knowledge of the inter-relatedness of ecology and agricultural and food systems.

#### Desired Qualifications include:

- Extensive practical experience in draft animal use and management;
- Significant teaching experience;
- An undergraduate degree and/or graduate degree, preferably in a field related to the College's mission of environmental stewardship;
- Willingness to participate in a busy team-centered farm work environment;
- Knowledge of draft powered crop production systems;

- Expertise in chainsaw safety and tree felling techniques;
- A working knowledge of low impact forestry practices.

### **Sterling College and the Rian Fried Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems:**

Founded in 1958, Sterling College is the leading voice in higher education for environmental stewardship and rural place-based education. The College was among the first liberal arts colleges in the United States to focus on sustainability through academic majors in Ecology, Environmental Humanities, Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems, and Outdoor Education. Among the smallest colleges in the nation, Sterling is home to the innovative School of the New American Farmstead and the Wendell Berry Farming Program, is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, and is one of only nine federally recognized Work Colleges in the nation.

The College has received national attention for becoming one of the first institutions in the U.S. to divest from fossil fuels. Sterling has been recognized for its sustainability initiatives by Sierra Magazine and earned a STARS Gold Rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The Real Food Challenge ranked Sterling the number one college in the U.S. for two consecutive years, 2015 and 2016, for its commitment to serving locally sourced sustainably produced food.

Sterling College maintains a diversified farm operation on 130 acres of mixed pasture, gardens, and forest. An integral part of the Sterling College community, the [Sterling Farm](#) serves a threefold purpose: to foster a working laboratory for academic inquiry; to demonstrate a range of farming and forestry practices used in sustainable, agro-ecological production systems; and, to provide nourishing food and timber resources for our campus community. Students are integrated into the farm and forest through coursework, the Work College program, and as a part of the Sterling College community. Students complete daily chores, conduct research, perform experiments, and receive hands-on experience growing crops, managing livestock, working with draft animals, and stewarding the College's woodlot.

### **Application Instructions:**

Sterling College and the [Rian Fried Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems](#) invite applications for a full-time faculty position as a Draft Animal Educator beginning in May 2019. Please submit a cover letter together with a resume or curriculum vitae and the names and contact information of three professional references to Joyce Morrissey ([jmorrissey@sterlingcollege.edu](mailto:jmorrissey@sterlingcollege.edu)). Review of applications will begin February 1st, 2019. The position will remain open until filled.