



The Community Farm, Chew Valley is seeking new Management Committee members and a Secretary.

Want to do something really positive and learn more about the food and farming movement at the same time? If the answer is 'yes' then read on.

It's that time of year when The Community Farm recruits new people to maintain the strength of its all-important Management Committee, a governing body of volunteers akin to a board of directors.

You will be joining a strong team of energetic and enthusiastic Committee members who work closely with our senior staff team. The Committee is responsible for governance, rather than operations, but as a small and young organization we are closely involved in the life of the Farm.

This year we are looking for enthusiastic Management Committee members and a new secretary, who could choose to be a member of the Committee or a standalone secretary.

We are keen to recruit a diversity of experience and skills onto the Committee. We are especially interested in recruiting people who are well connected in the local food system; or who have experience in farming, wildlife conservation, marketing or fundraising. We would also welcome applications from long-term customers or volunteers of The Farm.

*If this might be you we would love to hear from you!
Please contact our current Chairperson [Ben Newton](#).*

What is The Community Farm?

The Community Farm is a not-for-profit, social enterprise overlooking the gorgeous Chew Valley Lake just outside Bristol and Bath. Our mission is to get more people enjoying all of the benefits of a better food system. Every year we welcome more than 2,000 people onto the land for volunteering, courses and events. Every week, we share the food we have grown together, as well as food we have sourced from a network of other farmers and producers who share our values, to hundreds of households throughout Bristol, Bath and The Chew Valley.

The Community Farm Facts

- We were founded in 2010 by local volunteers motivated by concerns about climate change, biodiversity loss, and social justice
- We registered as a Community Benefit Society in 2010, ran a successful Community Share Offer attracting 400+ shareholder members, and launched in April 2011 renting our 14 acre site from the local farmer who also helped us found The Farm.
- Starting with empty fields and a cold tap, we now have 5 polytunnels, propagation tunnel, warehouse, yurt, roundhouse, learning area with growing forest garden, field kitchen, homes and hotels for wildlife and more
- We deliver organic food to more than 500 homes, and deliver wholesale fruit and veg to over 20 local businesses every week
- We grow community alongside food with more than 2,000 people joining us on the land for volunteering, courses and events. Regular attendees include refugees and asylum seekers, people with mental ill health and local school children
- We generate over £1million a year in sales turnover and employ over 30 local people
- We work with a variety of funders to raise grants and donations for our work as a social enterprise welcoming people onto the land

What does the role of a Management Committee member involve?

The full Management Committee meets every month at The Farm or via online meeting.

Reflecting its roots as a project created by ecological activists, the working culture at the Farm aspires to be collaborative, less hierarchical than some traditional businesses, and to use conflict constructively. Our Committee members are a key part of The Farm, and need to be happy working alongside our staff and other volunteers collaboratively.

On average the role adds up to about one day per month of work. Some Committee members choose to do more, advising staff on strategic areas such as food retail, wildlife, farming and community engagement; as well as communications, fundraising. Some members are regularly involved as field, wildlife or warehouse volunteers also. Further details about the role, which is unpaid, are in the Role Description (see PDF below).

What does the role of Secretary involve?

The Secretary plays a key supporting role in helping the Management Committee (MC) run smoothly and stay organised. Working closely with the Chair and Managing Directors, the Secretary helps plan meetings, keeps everything on track behind the scenes, and makes sure the right information gets to the right people at the right time.

From preparing agendas and taking meeting notes to helping with the AGM and keeping important records up to date, this role helps ensure the MC can focus on making good decisions. The Secretary also supports good governance by making sure the Committee follows agreed procedures and keeps everything well-documented and accessible.

What are the benefits of becoming a Management Committee member?

Our existing committee members tell us they love being part of a project with a deep sense of purpose and values. They describe it as an extraordinary project created by a whole lot of ordinary people. They appreciate learning about food, farming and wildlife. They feel positive about helping demonstrate that a better approach to the production, sale and enjoyment of food is indeed possible. They love the teamwork, the opportunities to spend time on the field as well as 'in the committee room', the sense of achievement and the occasional seasonal celebration.

How do I find out more?

- The first step is to get in touch and we'll arrange a chat with the Chair of the Management Committee and Managing Directors.
- We encourage prospective committee members to come and visit The Farm, meet some of the existing team and find out more about how we work.
- We then invite you to 'sit-in' on a Management Committee meeting
- If you decide the role is for you we need a short paragraph (deadline end of September) to send to the membership of the Farm ahead of our Annual General Meeting in November.
- Once on the committee, we have a 'buddying' system, induction information, an annual review process and we also run governance training/refresher sessions from time to time.

The Community Farm is a fantastic organisation, and I'm so pleased to have been able to play a very small part in helping the amazing work. This has been my first governance committee role and the lovely (and experienced) existing members were incredibly supportive and patient whilst I was learning the ropes. The Farm is an inspiring, peaceful place run by genuinely passionate, committed people. I am really enjoying being part of something bigger and very different from the legal work that I deal with day-to-day. Being involved with The Farm has been a really excellent experience.

Maddie Dunn, former MC Member

From all of us at The Community Farm - we look forward to meeting you soon!

Contact details:

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact tom@thecommunityfarm.co.uk and kim@thecommunityfarm.co.uk (Managing Directors)

Web: www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk

Address: The Community Farm, Denny Lane, Chew Magna, Bristol, BS40 8SZ