

Poultry Champion Volunteer Job Description



Introduction

Chagford Community Farm CIC (Chagfarm) recruits Workshares and volunteers on a needs-led but mutually beneficial basis to match desirable projects and activities with volunteers' skills, knowledge, experience and motivation. This job description sets out the broad principles for voluntary involvement in Chagfarm through a Workshare scheme which is paid in produce. Its purpose is to provide clarity on the expectations of the Poultry Champion role as well rewards and communication. As Workshare roles are considered to be voluntary roles this should be read in conjunction with Chagfarm's Volunteering Policy.

Job description

Chagfarm needs support to ensure that our birds have the best welfare that we can possibly give them whilst creating a high quality and consistent organic product. We expect this role to include:

- Regular and weekly farm support to check on the health of the chickens, top up bedding and report any significant issues to the Directors
- Keeping records on losses, rejections, health issues and any veterinary treatments as required by the Soil Association/ DEFRA and providing them to Directors on an annual basis
- Providing advice on housing, drinking, feeding, bedding, roosting, rotation and fencing arrangements e.g. can we source a better organic feed or grow our own
- Researching latest best practice poultry systems available on the market e.g. can we buy a better drinking system, automated door closing system or 12v heating for chicks in the winter
- Reading, understanding and advising on the latest organic welfare standards (last update Nov 2014)
- Improving our Organic Poultry Management and Health Plan
- Agreeing any spend with the Chagfarm Financial Director before any purchase is made
- Potentially supporting with chick or processed bird collections from Cullompton

Project work will include:

- Providing an appraisal of the current chicken rearing setup and advising on areas of improvement (submit by end of Q1 – 2015/ 31 March 15)
- Working on our site masterplan to advise on the best place to house and rotate chickens, ducks and geese in the future (submit by end of Q2 – 2015/ 30 June 15)
- Liaising with Environmental Health, the Soil Association and other bodies on the potential of installing on farm poultry slaughter and dressing facilities for chickens, ducks and geese (submit by end of Q3- 2015/ 30 Sept 15)
- Exploring the costs and options for chick rearing and poultry (duck, chicken and goose) slaughter facilities on the farm (submit by end of Q4- 2015/ Christmas)

Workshare scheme and rewards

Workshares enable members to work in exchange for their produce, providing they commit to working on a regular basis. After a month's trial, full training and a farm induction will be provided.

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The difference between our Workshares and volunteering on the farm is that we pay Workshares in produce at a rate of £6.50 per hour and expect a regular (normally weekly) commitment of hours in return. You record your hours in a book on the farm and we then credit your farm account so that you can enjoy Chagfarm produce with it. We normally agree a maximum level of credit we can provide in any month as per our budget. For this role we have budgeted for 1.5 hrs per week of paid time which equates to approximately £40 a month of Chagfarm produce. Any work over and above this will need to be on a purely voluntary basis.

The main rewards of this Workshare include:

- The experience of championing one of the world's highest welfare table poultry production systems. Woodland reared organic chicken is an extremely rare product these days. We are proud of the high welfare and natural lifestyle that our birds enjoy. We want to ensure their environment and the end product is continuously improved.
- The potential experience of managing the installation of really unique and wonderful small scale chick rearing and slaughter facilities.
- A choice of high quality and organic Chagfarm produce in exchange for your free time.
- Training and skills provided by the farm/ third parties as agreed with Chagfarm Directors

Communication and records

We will discuss communication with you so that it suits both parties at the outset. It is expected that the majority of communication will be over email with urgent farm issues reported to Sylvan Friend over the phone. The Directors currently meet quarterly and so we will align any project reporting deadlines with these meetings. Davon will provide a template for the one page project reports. Sylvan is normally on the farm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Davon will provide the documents for making records. Anyone feeding will report any losses, incidents or health issues to you directly to record. Records will be requested every six months for review and once a year for our organic inspection.