



Position Title: Volunteer Livestock Farmhands

About the Foundation:

By blending history, ecology, economics and conservation, the Accokeek Foundation strives to teach land stewardship and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as interpret the natural and cultural heritage of the Tidewater Potomac. The National Colonial Farm, the Ecosystem Farm, and other Foundation activities exemplify the agricultural, preservation and conservation goals that are at the core of the Foundation's mission and serve as an outdoor classroom to further the educational programs that are key to its success. In partnership with the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation stewards a 200-acre portion of Piscataway Park and preserves the view directly across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon.

About the Heritage Livestock Preservation Program:

The heritage livestock program is part of the Accokeek Foundation's stewardship of Piscataway Park. We care for our livestock in a way that enhances the health and stability of the natural and agricultural ecosystems of this special place. The heritage breeds of livestock we manage are American Milking Devon Cattle, Black Turkeys, Hog Island Sheep, Ossabaw Hogs, and various heritage chickens including Buckeyes.

Position Summary and Purpose:

The Volunteer Farmhands meet on Saturday mornings from 9-12 to assist the livestock manager with feeding, barn maintenance, fence work, general animal care, and various other projects related to the success of our heritage livestock program. This position is a great opportunity to work closely with animals and other dedicated livestock volunteers to support our rare and heritage breeds.

Duties may include:

- Feeding, cleaning the barn, repairing livestock fencing, clearing brush, maintaining pasture and barnyard areas, and more.
- Interacting with the public visiting the site to teach them about our heritage breeds and the program and answer any questions they may have.
- Lifting loads up to 25 lbs (feed, hay, straw, etc.).

Qualifications:

No previous experience is necessary, but volunteers must be comfortable working around large animals and animals with horns.

Time Requirements:

Volunteers meet Saturday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm. Scheduling is flexible and volunteer activities for each day may be weather dependent.

Benefits:

Volunteers will receive a one-year family membership to the foundation which includes discounts on classes and events, invitations to "Friends Only" events, and a 10% discount at the museum gift shop and visitor's center.

Supervisor: Polly Festa, Livestock Manager

To Participate: Please e-mail the Volunteer Coordinator, Casey Lowe, at volunteers@accokeek.org