



Food Access Associate

About Countryside

Our mission is to build a thriving local food community by connecting people, food and land in and beyond Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We work to preserve farmland, cultivate farmers, and expand local food.

About Countryside Farmers' Markets

As an outgrowth of the Countryside Initiative farm program, we began managing farmers' markets in 2004, and 2021 is our eighteenth season in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Our markets are producer-only; vendors are required to be growing, producing or making the products offered at the markets.

The purposes of Countryside Farmers' Markets are three-fold:

- Provide a venue where local farmers, producers, and artisans can sell their high-quality products directly to the consumer.
- Connect consumers with a wide array of locally grown and produced foods and goods in a setting that allows them to interact directly with the grower or producer, thereby re-connecting them directly to the source of their food.
- Create a space that allows for community interaction and enjoyment, informal public education and civic engagement.

About Food Access at Countryside

- Countryside works to reduce barriers to accessing fresh, nutritious, locally grown and produced foods through our food access programming.
- We began accepting SNAP benefits at our farmers' markets in 2009, and now are the regional spoke for Produce Perks Midwest facilitating this nutrition incentive programming in Summit, Portage, Stark, and Medina counties.
- Via Produce Perks we offer SNAP customers a dollar-for-dollar match on SNAP purchases (up to \$25) for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at each of the 12 market locations we cover in these 4 counties.
- Countryside also works closely with Summit County WIC on their Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Voucher program. In 2019, we piloted a WIC incentive, similar to, but unique from Produce Perks.
- We are always exploring new and innovative strategies to increase the access to and impacts of healthy and fresh local foods for peoples and communities in need.

The **Food Access Associate** position is *seasonal and part-time* starting at early-June and ending late-September.

Position Summary: The Food Access Associate is responsible for administration of SNAP & Produce Perks programming for their assigned market(s) including on-site transactions and customer service, and off-site data reconciliation. Please see details of responsibilities below:

On-Site Program Administration – 75%

- Communicates and coordinates with market location(s) & Countryside staff, as assigned.
- Sets-up and tears-down Produce Perks information booth/materials.
- Familiarizes self with market and Produce Perks to provide accurate information and assistance as needed to customers.
- Communicates with market vendors regarding program processes and requirements and ensures compliance.
- Processes SNAP/Produce Perks transactions on-site, providing excellent customer service and with accuracy.
- Administers buyback of tokens from vendors accurately.

Off-Site Program Administration – 25%

- Reconciles cash, tokens, vouchers, and data post-market.
- Completes all related data entry.
- Compiles and verifies monthly data, prepares invoices.

Key Skills

- High-level customer service skills, with an approachable, friendly, patient and informative communication style are critical to performance in this position; customer service experience is required and additional training will be provided.
- Meticulous data collection and cash handling.
- Independent and task-oriented work ethic.

Additional Qualifications

- Must be willing to do physical work and be capable of lifting object ~50 lbs.
- Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record.
- Must be able and willing to work outside in inclement weather.
- Proficiency with Microsoft 365 and Google applications required.
- Interest and background in local food, food access, and community development issues a plus.

Schedule Requirements

- Approximately 5 hours per week
- Required: Saturdays, 9:00am-2:00pm June 12th – Sept 25th (schedule based on market hours and therefore cannot be flexible; please consider availability before applying)
- Training dates: Tuesdays June 1st & June 8th 2:00pm-7:00pm (potential for flexibility in training times)

Compensation

\$12/hour

To Apply

Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 14th. To apply, please send a one-page cover letter and one-page resume to: Jenna Eastman, Community Food Access Manager, at jeastman@countrysidefoodandfarms.org