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Assistant Field Grower

April 15, 2024

Job Description: Saunders Brothers is a wholesale nursery and orchard operation in central Virginia. Saunders Brothers is looking for an Assistant Field Grower in our Field Production team. If you've dreamed of working in a family atmosphere where hard work, integrity, honesty, and passion are core values, come join our team!

Requirements and duties would include the following:

- Assist field growers to produce ornamental plants, fruit, and bareroot liners.
- Majority of time to be spent in field assisting production managers and field growers with:
 - Evaluation of crops with production manager and grower.
 - Pruning and training of peaches, apples, pears, ornamental crops (field boxwood, hollies, etc.), and bareroot trees.
 - Equipment operation: tractors, pruning machines.
 - Oversight of planting of field boxwood and bareroot trees and the digging of bareroot trees.
 - Frost protection.
 - Other duties as needed.
- Assist production manager and grower of field plants, orchard, and bareroot with planning.
- Willing to attend educational events for professional development.
- Willing to assist in other tasks as needed.

Qualifications:

- Preferred – college degree in horticulture or related field. Required - GED or high school diploma.
- Willing to work outside in all kinds of weather. Much of the time for this position will be outdoors and in the field.
- Willingness to learn and communicate with Spanish speaking employees.
- Must have good organizational skills, be able to prioritize workload, and have flexibility as work demands change.
- Must have good communication skills and be able to work effectively with other staff members. Also, must be able to work independently with structured deadlines as dictated by supervisor.
- Must be physically capable of performing the responsibilities and requirements of this position.

Supervisor: This position will answer directly to the Field Boxwood Production Manager and Grower.

Pay and Benefits: We offer a competitive salary (commensurate with qualifications), health insurance, vacation package, short-term disability insurance, 401k package (eligible after 1 year of employment), and employee pricing on plants and farm market items. We also offer professional training and staff development opportunities for staff. This is a full-time, on site, year-round position.

Drug Testing and Background Checks: Saunders Brothers is committed to providing a drug-free and safe workplace. Therefore, all employees are subject to random drug testing, reasonable suspicion testing, and post-accident testing. In addition, all new employees will be subject to a background check upon a job offer.

Start Date: As soon as filled.

Information and Application: Saunders Brothers Inc. is comfortably situated on the sunrise side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Located less than 1 hour from the renowned University of Virginia medical center and Liberty University, Nelson County has numerous opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, and skiing. Company perks include discounts at our retail Farm Market that include seasonal fruit from our orchards, family-raised meats and wholesale pricing on plants grown on our farm.

Contact Mari Johnson or Annie Saunders Burnett at jobs@saundersbrothers.com. The job description may be seen at www.saundersbrothers.com and the application can be downloaded or completed on our website. Application must be submitted with resume to be considered.

Saunders Brothers Core Values

Faith- Our Core Values and business practices are directed by our Christian faith.

Integrity- Honesty and truthfulness are foundational to our business and we seek to do what is morally and ethically right.

Passion- We strive to enthusiastically share our love for Agriculture by connecting people with plants, fruit, and the farm.

Family- The Saunders Brothers' Family includes and fosters many diverse families, generations, races, religions, and nationalities.

Business Purpose

To make a profit doing something we love.

To have a positive impact on our employees, customers, suppliers, community, and environment.

To provide a productive, nurturing, and fulfilling environment for our team.

Strategy

To be a premier supplier of superb-quality plant material for garden centers, landscapers, and public gardens throughout the Eastern United States.

To be a premier supplier of extraordinary fruit to the people of the Mid-Atlantic area.