



## **ORGANIC BLUEBERRY FARM MANAGER**

Location: Independence, Virginia

### **LIVE AND WORK ON THE BEAUTIFUL NEW RIVER IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA**

River Ridge Organics, a 12 acre organic blueberry and blackberry farm in the middle of a 1500-acre cattle farm, is seeking a full time manager to oversee all aspects of the berry farm. This position requires extensive knowledge of horticulture / agronomy. This position is supported by seasonal harvest labor and part-time employees to assist in the management of River Ridge Organics. The successful candidate will report directly to the General Manager.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Cost controls on farm inputs
- Build and update annual budgets
- Maintaining existing customer accounts and creating new accounts
- Implementing new and effective management strategies
- Continued management of existing plants
- Management of all supplemental employees
- Scheduling irrigation, pruning and sprays
- Maintenance of the pack house and equipment
- Communication with both Organic and Gap certifiers

Skills and Qualifications that are required

- Degree in Horticulture / Agronomy (Experience can be substituted)
- Strong work ethic / self-starter
- Strong communication skills
- Management experience

Compensation includes base salary (commensurate with experience), bonus program, full medical, matching 401K (6%), housing, vehicle, and phone. Relocation assistance available.

### **About River Ridge and Grayson County, VA**

River Ridge is in the rolling foothills of Southwest Virginia among the highest peaks in the state and the second oldest river in the world. It's a great place to live and raise a family. This is where our founder, Charlotte Hanes, decided to build her family farm. Today, that farm is more than 1,500 acres positioned along the New River.

Understanding the value of land, Charlotte has placed most of hers under conservation easements and claims this area as a climate refuge. You will often hear Charlotte talk about sustainability. She has said on many occasions, "The word sustainability has been thrown around so much and misused. Sustainability means that you can reproduce something without taking away any of its present value... and keep it going. Just, keep it going... don't use it up." Grayson County is also a climate refuge.

With this in mind, Charlotte's vision for starting River Ridge was to establish a business model to help support local farms and ensure sustainability for the surrounding community for years to come. Eight years ago, River Ridge introduced River Ridge Organics on the banks of the New River, establishing a sustainable berry operation on the most productive ground of the farm to complement the cattle operation. Today River Ridge Organics has the equipment, production, customers, and labor to produce the finest organic berries in the world. We are looking for a team member to join our family.

We say "family" because we believe our company is a family. We pride ourselves on family values, working hard to get the job done, but also recognizing time to enjoy our beautiful surroundings. On weekends, we often drive to the top of Whitetop Mountain Road to the highest peak in Virginia, soaring 5,520 feet. The outdoor activities in Grayson County are numerous! There is fishing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, birding, kayaking and more!

[http://www.blueridgeonline.com/Grayson/Grayson\\_County\\_ThingsToDo](http://www.blueridgeonline.com/Grayson/Grayson_County_ThingsToDo)

And if you love music, there is nothing more fun than the Crooked Road Music Trail that goes right through Grayson County. <https://www.graysoncountyva.com/festivals/>

While we are in a small town, we are close to larger cities like Winston-Salem and Boone, North Carolina.

**If interested, please contact Brantley Ivey at [Brantley@riverridge.farm](mailto:Brantley@riverridge.farm).**