**LFS 496 Career Development**

**Small-Scale Meat Producers Association**

**Position Title:** Craft Meat: Growing the sustainable small-lot meat sector-Assistant

**Background**

The Small-Scale Meat Producers Association (SSMPA) represents British Columbia farmers and ranchers who are raising meat outside of the conventional, industrial system. Our farmers operate diversified farms where animals are raised on pasture— they are not represented by larger industry group or supply-management and are faced with unique challenges. While infrastructures and regulations are designed to suit larger operations, small-scale producers struggle to meet the increased demand for ethically and ecologically raised meat. The SSMPA was founded by a group of farmers and ranchers to build greater stability and growth opportunities for small-scale meat producers in British Columbia.

Managed by the CSFS, the Food Systems Career Development Course aims to engage UBC students with their local food system and create opportunities to experience the working environment of a food sustainability focused organization. Students work alongside food systems practitioners and faculty to increase their understanding and knowledge of food systems work, from organic agriculture to food production methods, food-focused community engagement, and business management.

SSMPA conducts research to support small-scale meat production and processing in British Columbia. Topics of research include on-farm production and processing, best practices for on-pasture management, regulatory issues, supply management and marketing boards, abattoir capacity, and industry outlook. A primary responsibility of the student will be to implement a province-wide survey of small-scale meat producers that will collect data to develop a snapshot of the industry’s current challenges and opportunities. The Small-Scale Meat Sector Policy Assistant will have the opportunity to work with SSMPA board members, industry associations, and contacts within the Ministry of Agriculture. This placement represents an opportunity to understand small-scale meat production provincially, as well as refine research and communication skills in a practical manner.

Students are expected to enroll in the Career Development Course (LFS 496 - 3 credits) once or twice (May – August or May – December). At the end of the 14 or 28-week program, students will be eligible to receive course credit towards their UBC degree.

**Duties**

The Small-Scale Meat Sector Policy Assistant will work alongside the SSMPA team on the following tasks:

- Assist the development and implementation of a provincial small-scale meat producer survey
  Travelling may be required for this position
- Participate in the collection, analysis and interpretation of survey data and the creation of resources such as an interactive map and resources for producers
- Participate in conducting a literature review of best practices
- Be a SSMPA ambassador at regional events
Preferred Qualifications

- UBC student eligible for LFS 496
- Passionate about local, small-scale meat production
- Excellent research and writing skills
- Excellent computer skills generally, especially experience with Excel
- Ability to work independently and collaborate with others remotely
- Ability to take guidance when problem solving is needed

Position Details

- May to August or May to December 2020
  - 3 credits over one semester (May to August 2020), for a total of 126 hours (or average of 9 hours per week)
  - 6 credits over two semesters (May to December 2020), for a total of 252 hours (or average of 9 hours per week)
- Flexible schedule to be determined with the candidate. Workshop liaising may require occasional evening or weekend duties.
- This is an unpaid, for-credit placement.

How to apply

- Apply by submitting one Adobe PDF document combining a cover letter and résumé.
- The cover letter should be maximum 500 words, state which position you are applying for, and what you hope to gain from such an experience or how you feel this experience would contribute to your overall learning and education at UBC.
- **Email:** Corine Singfield, corine@closedloopag.ca
- All applications should clearly refer to “LFS 496 Career Development Course”
- Application deadline is **March 15, 2020**
- Please no phone calls
- More information about the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and Small-Scale Meat Producers Association can be found at ubcfarm.ubc.ca and smallscalemeat.ca.