



# Job Description: Co-leader – LSP’s Bridge To Soil Health initiative

(July 2016)

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) seeks a full-time staff member to co-lead and help build our new **Bridge To Soil Health** initiative, based in southeastern Minnesota. This initiative will work directly with, and expand a strong network of, mid-sized crop and livestock farmers in the region that wish to make on-farm changes that build soil health and organic matter levels, improve yields, and enhance water quality and family farm profitability. The initiative also engages farmers in public policy discussion and prioritizing of much-needed federal farm policy reforms that support soil health, improved conservation, and more farmers on the land.

## Qualifications

Knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the growing range of soil-building methods being demonstrated by farmers in the Upper Midwest, including combinations of cover crops, no-till and intensive grazing. Solid background and experience in commercial-scale crop and livestock production, and ability to relate well to farmers. Group workshop facilitation skills. Commitment to the importance of farmer-to-farmer learning. Understanding of on-farm demonstration and research. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Proficiency with electronic communication tools, including e-mail, social media, and *YouTube*. Commitment to the vision, goals and community organizing methods of LSP (<http://landstewardshipproject.org/about/mission>). Outgoing personality, telephone skills, community organizing and/or sales experience, and a good sense of humor are all needed. Master’s degree in soils, agronomy, animal science or agricultural education preferred. Understanding of Holistic Management principles helpful. Reliable vehicle and willingness to travel regionally.

## Primary Responsibilities

Recruit and staff steering committee of soil-building farmers to play a lead role in guiding LSP and serving as farmer-to-farmer educators. Organize soil-building workshops. Conduct 1-to-1 farm visits. Develop thorough scientific understanding of soil-building methods and their on-farm applicability and a knowledge of the research in the field. Help expand LSP’s soil builders’ network of farmers wanting more information, and help develop the written and electronic communication tools for farmer-to-farmer sharing. Recruit additional LSP farmer-members.

## Hours, Location, Supervision & Compensation

This is a full-time salaried position, based in LSP’s southeastern Minnesota office in Lewiston. Compensation is in the mid-to-upper \$30k range, with excellent health insurance and a comprehensive benefits package. The starting date for this position is August 22, 2016.

## The Land Stewardship Project

LSP is a grassroots membership organization, based in Minnesota, with a mission of fostering an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promoting sustainable agriculture, and developing healthy communities. LSP uses a community organizing, education-to-action approach with the goal of achieving major change in our agriculture and food system towards stewardship, justice and community vitality. We have 4,000 member-households.

## To Apply

Please submit cover letter and resume by July 23, 2016, to Doug Nopar at [dnopar@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:dnopar@landstewardshipproject.org).