



Midwest Meat Value Chain Coordination Trainer

About

The Wallace Center brings together diverse people and ideas to co-create solutions that build healthy farms, equitable economies, and resilient food systems. One way we accomplish this mission is by building the capacity for the value chain coordination (VCC) broadly and in specific applications and geographies. Wallace Center's Pasture Project – run by the Resilient Agriculture and Ecosystems (RAE) team - focuses on regenerative livestock grazing and VCC for regeneratively produced meat in the Upper Midwest. The RAE team is looking to hire trainers with knowledge of livestock and meat systems to conduct a VCC training that will support place-based practitioners, encourage regional engagement, and help improve equitable opportunities for farmers, food chain workers, and consumers.

The trainers will work with Wallace Center staff and contracted VCC curriculum trainers deliver, pilot, and evaluate a curriculum based VCC training series for 30 Upper Midwest practitioners interested in regeneratively produced meat by September 30, 2022. This will require trainers to participate in a Training of Trainers (ToT) of with Food Systems Leadership Network VCC curriculum trainers.

This series will actively center racial equity, both in its cohort and content. The series will be hosted on the Regenerative Ag Idea Network's (REGAIN) online peer-learning platform to provide participants with access to information, expert instruction, and peer-to-peer discussions. As a result, a scalable VCC training process will be available for an ongoing community of practice.

Description

This training will support the Wallace Center's commitment to building equitable values-based supply chains, driving our larger goal of reimagining and redesigning farming and food systems. Wallace Center has an existing curriculum on VCC which is implemented by the Food Systems Leadership Network. The Food Systems Leadership Network's training is focused on organizing and prioritizing VCC activities broadly to help practitioners develop more resilient place-based economies. This training will adapt the existing VCC curriculum to create a scalable, equity-centered value chain coordination (VCC) curriculum and pilot a training series specifically focused on regeneratively produced meat in local and regional food systems of the Upper Midwest. Specific outputs include:

- Recruitment of a VCC professional cohort in the Upper Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin) that is diverse in geography, racial identity, gender identity, age, occupation, and other distinguishing characteristics.
- Development of a pilot training on regeneratively produced meats for Upper Midwest VCC professionals that provides a shared learning experience and centers racial justice and equity.
- Evaluation of the pilot training and cohort engagement to determine effectiveness, impact, needed improvements, and opportunities for replication at scale.

This training will result in a larger, more connected network of skilled VCC professionals that work on regenerative meat supply chains in the Upper Midwest. It will support long-term VCC collaboration and action to support farmers, workers, and consumers, while also creating an opportunity to work with similar practitioners in other regions or those focused on other regenerative products.



Outcomes for this training include:

- Partners and allies have an improved understanding of the purpose and best practice of equity centered VCC to support regenerative farming and food systems.
- Communications, relationships, and collaborations between diverse Upper Midwest VCC professionals are strengthened, seeding a potential VCC community of practice on REGAIN.

Experience

We are looking for two applicants – applying individually or together – that will work collaboratively with the Wallace Center team and the Food Systems Leadership Network curriculum trainers to together to develop, deliver and evaluate this curriculum based VCC training. Required experience includes:

- Understanding of the agriculture and VCC landscapes in the Midwest
- Multiple years’ experience working on or in meat value chains
- Subject matter expertise in VCC theory and practice, specifically for meat
- Experience providing practitioner training and coordination
- Understanding of centering racial equity and justice in program design and delivery

Deliverables

Task No.	Description	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Due Date
1	Participate in curriculum adaptation and ToT with Food Systems Leadership VCC trainers	June 15, 2022	July 15, 2022
2	Complete curriculum adaptation for the Midwest and regeneratively produced meat	July 15, 2022,	August 15, 2022
3	Develop training series for 30 Midwest practitioners and set up the necessary training infrastructure with hosting on REGAIN	August 15, 2022	August 31, 2022
4	Participate in Wallace Center check ins throughout project period	Entire project period	
5	Conduct training with co-facilitator	August 15, 2022	September 30, 2022
6	Engage in REGAIN by managing training cohort questions in discussion group	Entire project period	

