

# Hunting Program Manager & Bird Dog Trainer

**Location:** Fairhope, Alabama

**Properties:** Farm in Fairhope, AL & Hunting Plantation in Safford, AL



## Overview

This role is to serve a family in building and leading a long-term hunting and bird-dog program across their legacy properties in South Alabama, headquartered in Fairhope.

The family is committed to building a best-in-class private hunting program defined by excellence, hospitality, stewardship of land, and launching and developing exceptional bird dog program.

The primary focus of the dog program will be raising and training French Brittany Spaniels (Epagneul Bretons or “EBs”) for upland hunting. The role will also support the family’s established waterfowl program and assist in maintaining and developing their British Labradors and EBs used for duck hunting.

This is not a seasonal guiding position. It is a long-term leadership role for a skilled professional who wants to build and steward a private hunting program from the ground up.

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## Properties

**Large Farm in Fairhope, Alabama (Primary Base).** The headquarters for training, kennel operations, and hosted upland hunts. New, purpose-built kennels and dog facilities will be constructed in collaboration with the Program Manager.

**Historic Family Hunting Property in Safford, Alabama.** The family’s hunting property, used for deer, seasonal upland and waterfowl waterfowl hunting.

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## Role Summary

The Hunting Program Manager & Bird Dog Trainer will be responsible for:

- Developing an exceptional and hospitable upland hunting experience at both properties
- Leading habitat development and operational execution, including partnership with ownership on long-term land stewardship and conservation
- Raising, training, and maintaining a high-performance kennel of French Brittanys
- Supporting and maintaining the family’s British Labs and broader waterfowl program
- Guiding quail hunts for family members and select corporate guests
- Overseeing day-to-day kennel and related operational activities
- Leading travel for off-season training and hunts in different locations (e.g., Montana in July/August)

This role blends: **dog trainer + upland program leader + waterfowl support + habitat manager + property operator**

## **Core Responsibilities**

### **Bird Dog Program & Training**

- Lead the development and daily training of a kennel focused primarily on upland hunting with French Brittany Spaniels
- Provide secondary support in training and maintaining Labradors and EBs for waterfowl hunting
- Design and execute a structured, high-quality training program from young dogs through finished hunting dogs
- Prepare dogs for both family hunting and corporate guest experiences
- Oversee daily kennel operations, conditioning, health coordination, and performance standards
- Maintain organized training and lineage documentation

This role includes both:

1. Raising and training dogs housed at the newly constructed kennel facilities
2. Aiding to maintain and train the family's personal hunting dogs

### **Hunting & Guest Experience**

- Plan and guide private hunts for: family members, family guests and corporate and business guests
- Coordinate hunt logistics, dog rotations, field planning, and property transitions between locations
- Represent the family and program with professionalism, hospitality and excellence
- Ensure each hunt reflects safety and stewardship

### **Hunting & Guest Experience**

- Lead and execute strategic off-season travel for wild bird exposure and advanced dog development (e.g., summer training in Montana)
- Assist in planning and coordinating destination hunting trips for the family in other regions
- Use off-season travel to elevate dog quality, expand experience, and strengthen the overall program

### **Habitat & Farm Program Management**

- Manage and execute quail habitat development and maintenance
- Support execution of the family's duck hunting program, including seasonal preparation and dog readiness
- Work in partnership with farm staff to execute:
  - Field preparation

- Habitat improvement projects
- Partner with ownership in long-term land stewardship and habitat planning

## **Equipment, Facilities & Property Operations**

- Operate and assist with farm and habitat equipment as needed
- Be hands-on and practical in:
  - Light equipment maintenance
  - Minor facility repairs
  - Kennel and training area upkeep
- Serve as a dependable on-site leader capable of troubleshooting and resolving operational issues
- Support ownership in the stewardship and operational oversight of kennels and related facilities

## **Kennel & Facility Build-Out**

- Collaborate with ownership in the design and build-out of new, best-in-class kennels and dog facilities
- Help shape: training grounds, kennel layout, storage and cleaning systems

## **Competitive Development & Testing**

The Program Manager will have the opportunity to prepare and handle dogs for select competitive venues—including field trials, NAVHDA testing, and other performance events—where appropriate and aligned with the overall program goals.

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## **Ideal Candidate Profile**

You are likely:

- Passionate about upland habitat, working dogs, and craftsmanship in your work
- A highly capable professional bird-dog trainer with meaningful upland and kennel experience
- Experienced with pointing breeds (Brittany experience strongly preferred)
- Experienced in retrieving training (Labrador experience preferred)
- Confident guiding private hunts and interacting with family and corporate guests
- Hands-on, practical, and resourceful in a working farm environment
- Ability to manage daily kennel operations and assist in property maintenance
- Comfortable with travel and logistical coordination
- Strong work ethic, reliability, and attention to detail
- Ability to operate independently and take ownership of a program

## **Personal Qualities We Value**

- Integrity
  - Pride in your dogs and your standards
  - A long-term mindset
  - Hospitality-minded and others-focused
  - Genuine enjoyment of mentoring dogs, staff, and guests
  - Desire to help build an exceptional hunting program—not simply run an existing one
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### **Location & Lifestyle**

This position is based in Fairhope, Alabama, on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay—an exceptional coastal community with a high quality of life.

Seasonal work and hosted hunts will also take place at the family's property in Safford, Alabama, along with strategic travel for training and destination hunts.

### **Compensation**

Compensation will be competitive and commensurate with experience and responsibility.