

**RENSSELAER COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Conservation District Technician

Location: USDA Service Center - 61 State Street - Troy, NY

This is a full-time position open immediately, announced 8.12.2021.

- **Distinguishing Features of the Class:** This is a technical position involving responsibility in field surveys, design work, supervision of construction and documenting design adherence of best management practices to known technical standards. This includes activities such as water quality improvement practices on agricultural lands, seeding and tree planting in buffer areas and other soil and water management projects. The selected candidate will also act as the supervisor of assigned work crews and volunteers. The work helps implement on farm practices and assist with EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) in accordance with printed NRCS standards and performed under the general supervision of the Conservation District Manager.

Typical Work Activities:

- Planning, surveying and designing soil and water conservation projects, such as diversion ditches, grassed waterways, barnyard water management systems, subsurface drainage, etc. alone and/or with fellow District staff;
- Working independently and with other District staff for the District tree and shrub seedling program. Ordering appropriate species of enough quality and quantities for resale, prepare the annual order form, and help ensure the vegetation is properly packaged and available to landowners;
- Orders sufficient quality and quantities of selected fish species for resale, arranges delivery and advises on placement in ponds for the District fish program;
- Scheduling and delivery of the Districts hay mulcher, no-till drill, hydro-seeder, and tree planters to renter's property. for the District conservation equipment rental program;
- Prepares maps, charts and specification as directed by the District Manager;
- Develops displays and booths on conservation themes for various public relation activities (this may include "Farm Day Out" and/or County Fair activities.);
- Collects data for conservation practice design and cost estimates. Also performs technical data collection on conservation programs such as roadside erosion and culvert inventory;
- Reviews conservation plans and offers advice on conservation practices to landowners, farm operators, organizations and municipalities;
- Prepares estimates of time and materials required to do seeding jobs. Coordinates use of the District hydro-seeder and mulcher with town and County Highway Department;
- Prepares a variety of reports and records pertaining to conservation programs and accomplishments and;
- Various duties as assigned by the District Manager.

Typical Skills, Abilities and Personal Characteristics:

- Good knowledge of materials and procedures used in the construction and maintenance of conservation practices such as diversions, waterways, drainage systems, ponds, nonpoint pollution control structures and other conservation practices;
- Good knowledge of the design criteria (NRCS Standards for example) and installation techniques of conservation practices or the ability and desire to accumulate these skills;
- Working knowledge of engineering surveys, geographic positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS) is desirable;
- Ability to interpret maps, charts, graphs and engineering designs;
- Ability to establish good working relationships with others and to communicate effectively in presenting the District's conservation programs to the public;
- Ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions;
- Ability to prepare records and reports;
- Manual dexterity;
- Familiar with various pieces of conservation equipment and their use and;
- Physical condition commensurate with demands of the position.

Minimum Qualifications: Either

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an associate degree in *Civil Engineering or Construction Technology, Forestry, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Agricultural Business* or a related field; **OR**
- B. Graduation from high school or possession of a general equivalency diploma (GED) and two (2) years of experience in soil and water conservation work, forestry or engineering.

Special Requirement for Acceptance of Applications:

Possession of a valid New York State Driver's license is required and must maintain the license throughout the term of employment. Residency in Rensselaer County is required for the position. If the applicant resides in another county or state, it is expected that county residency and a New York State driver's license will be obtained within (two) 2 months of accepting the position.

The successful applicant will be expected to become a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or other appropriate professional certifications related to the position within three (3) years of appointment.

This position is considered competitive under civil service and will be considered temporary until successful ranking on the civil service test.

Starting Salary Range: \$30,000 - \$40,000, Commensurate on experience and education.

To Apply:

Please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and three (3) references to Megan Myers, at Megan.Myers.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com by 9.12.2021.