



RENSELAEER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Conservation District Technician (Agronomy)

LOCATION: USDA Service Center, 61 State Street, Troy, NY

This is a full-time position, including health insurance, paid vacation, NYS retirement system.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This position is primarily responsible for performing technical assistance associated with the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program for the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District. The incumbent works under the direct supervision of the Soil and Water Conservation District Manager. A Conservation District Technician (Agronomy) also conducts related work as needed.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Executing tasks of the AEM base program 75% of the Conservation District Technician's time throughout the work week, consistent with the Districts AEM Strategic Plan and AEM Action Plan. This may include, but also not limited to:

Performing soil sampling on agricultural land;

Assists in the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP) Program to preserve water quality;

Carry out the AEM cost share program to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs);

Conducts interviews with farmers and conducts surveys of farming practices in accordance with the AEM program manual, protocols and guidelines;

Observes, measures and documents factors needed for development of BMPs and CNMPs;

Assists in calculating soil, nitrate and phosphate loss through leaching and runoff to ground water and surface water;

Evaluates farmstead practices to determine environmental risks, including but not limited to; barnyard run-off, waste water treatments, silage storage, manure storage and transfer;

Assists in evaluating grazing practices and develops grazing management plans in accordance with USDA NRCS standards;

Prepares AEM Tiers 1, 2, 3A plans; 3b, 3c, 4, 5a, and 5bs;

Prepares and submits applications for agricultural related grants;

Assists in surveying, mapping, seeding and BMP construction and implementation activities;

Prepares and maintains AEM program financial records, data management, tracking activity hours and reporting;

Attends agricultural related partnership meetings, occasional agricultural events as outreach (some may be in the evening and on weekends);

May provide agricultural related education and;

Performs related work as required.



FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the principles and practices of natural resource conservation with an emphasis on soil and water conservation management, nutrient management and crop management. Familiarity with the AEM Tiered Program, RUSLEII, Cropware (or similar nutrient management programs), the NYS Nitrate Leaching Index, the NY Phosphorous Index is preferred. Good knowledge of the planning, design, layout and installation of best management practices related to farming and agriculture is preferred; working knowledge of the principles and practices used in grant preparation and administration is preferred; working knowledge of engineering surveying; working knowledge of Access and ArcGIS is preferred; ability to establish good working relationships with others and present the conservation program to interested parties; ability to prepare records and reports; Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- 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 Agronomy, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Agricultural Business, Natural Resources Conservation or a related field and one (1) year of experience in soil and water conservation work, agronomy, or crop and soil management;

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS:

Possession of a valid New York State Driver's license (or a license valid in another state with the expectation of acquiring a New York license within 2 months of accepting the position) and must maintain the license throughout the term of employment.

The position prefers the selected individual to be a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), USDA Certified Conservation Planner (CCP), a comparable professional certification, or in the process of working towards a certification with the goal to be certified within 2 years of appointment.

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

Salary Range: \$37,500 - \$47,500 - *Depending on experience.*

To Apply:

Please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and list of three (3) references to Megan Myers at Megan.Myers.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com by Thursday, 10/22/2021.