

## CONSERVATION DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/Agricultural Environmental Specialist

**Department:** Chemung County Soil & Water Conservation District  
**Classification:** Competitive  
**Adopted:** February 6, 2024  
**By:** Regional Civil Service Commission

**Distinguishing Features of the Class:** This position is responsible for educating landowners about techniques, systems, programs and resources available for improved conservation plans and management. The work also involves assisting cooperators in the development of skills necessary to plan for and implement resource conservation efforts and to integrate available state and federal programs in a comprehensive approach to resource conservation planning. The incumbent acts as liaison to and assists related participating agencies with informational and education programs that address rotational grazing management. Provides technical assistance to other agencies, local units of government and private landowners with related natural resource and conservation needs. Works with District and Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel in the implementation of all District programs. This position is under the direct supervision of the District Manager or District Directors. Does related work as required.

**Typical Work Activities:** (The following work activities are listed as examples only and in no event shall an employee be limited to only those examples listed here.)

- Uses Natural Resources Conservation Service resource conservation planning and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Tier 3A planning process to develop landowners' conservation plans
- Assesses sites for rotational grazing potential; Recommends proper use and time of grazing;
- Records existing business operations;
- Interprets soil information and forage production data;
- Assists landowners in assessing forage needs and requirements
- Plans, surveys and designs best management conservation practices using the Federal Engineering Field Manual and following Soil Conservation Service standards and specifications;
- Supervises, certifies and documents the construction of conservation practices on lands of farmers, local units of government and other landowners.
- These practices may include, but are not limited to, diversions, waterways, tile outlet diversions, stripcropping, subsurface drainage and manure storage facilities;
- Assists with the planning and execution of all District earned revenue programs;
- Provides news articles, photographic materials and layout assistance for District's annual newsletter;
- Assists with the implementation of special conservation projects of the District;
- Assists with the development of conservation education displays; classes and presentations for schools, 4-H, civic organizations and units of government;
- Assists the District Manager in conducting a conservation needs inventory for the development of new District programs and services;
- Provides landowners and units of government with soils information and technical interpretations for varied land uses;
- Completes soil group worksheets for individual landowners applying for an agricultural land value assessment;
- Responsible for the preparation of a daily narrative which will outline his/her activities for that day and will be reviewed monthly by the manager and/or directors;
- Represents the Soil and Water Conservation District at functions when assigned by the District Chairman or the District Manager;
- May be required to attend and/or participate in District functions and promotional activities such as Fields Day, Envirothon etc;
- May perform other related duties as assigned by the District Manager or Board of Directors.

**Full Performance Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Personal Characteristics:**

- Thorough background in various farming types, methods and procedures; Thorough knowledge of agronomic principles, soil characteristics, plants and livestock operations to independently plan and apply conservation systems and structures; Good knowledge of the principles of natural resource conservation; Working knowledge of commonly employed conservation practices such as alternative watering systems, laneway improvements, and other conservation practices applicable to livestock operations; Good knowledge of nutrient management planning at the whole farm scale and the ability to apply this knowledge to nutrient loading, balancing, and fertilization of pastures, haylands and cropland; Good knowledge in the AEM planning process with the ability to plan and implement practices in accordance with the program; Working knowledge of other conservation programs (NYS Ag Nonpoint Source Program, Agricultural Management Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, etc.); Working knowledge of geographic information systems (GIS); Working knowledge of basic arithmetic; Working knowledge of engineering surveying; Knowledge of basic surveying instruments and their use; Ability to interpret maps; Ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions; Manual dexterity; mechanical aptitude; reliability; job enthusiasm; Ability to work with the public town and elected officials; Ability to work with minimal supervision in the field; Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and EITHER:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree or higher in Natural Resources Conservation, Water Resources, Agricultural Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Technology, Environmental Science, the Physical Sciences, Engineering, Geology or a related field and one (1) year of full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in natural resources conservation, agricultural nutrient management, agricultural management, or closely related field; **or**
- B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's Degree in Natural Resources Conservation, Water Resources, Agricultural Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Technology, Environmental Science, the Physical Sciences, Engineering, Geology or a related field and three (3) years of experience in construction, land surveying, natural resource protection, engineering, conservation, or a related field; **or**
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as set by the limits of (A) and (B) above.

**Special Requirements:**

Agriculture Environmental Planner or NRCS Certified Conservation Planner – Must obtain certification within two years and maintain such certification as a condition of employment.