

CLASS TITLE: Conservation Planner
PROGRAM: Agriculture

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This position is that of a conservation planner responsible for performing technical/specialized work in educating landowners¹ on nutrient management, the need for effective crop management systems, identifying natural resource concerns, and recommending best management practices (BMP). The incumbent assists with carrying out a coordinated program of natural resource conservation. The position is located at the Agricultural Service Center, 21315 Berlin Road, Georgetown.

DESCRIPTION

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Makes initial contact with landowners regarding District and USDA programs. Works closely with the landowner and advises them on the installation and maintenance of highly tailored conservation systems. Conducts a field-by-field review of the farm with the landowners. Advises on mixtures and similar considerations, in keeping with the soil types and conditions of the land. Promote soil health and soil health management practices.
- Performs PreSidedress Nitrogen Tests (PSNT) for county farmers. The incumbent takes soil samples, processes the tests, and reports the results to the landowner most of the time within 24 hours.
- Selects standard designs and adapts the designs to fit the conditions present on the land. Assists in laying out engineering practices and advises landowners and contractors during construction. Recommends acceptance to the District Conservationist on all types of conservation practices including cost-sharing.
- Assists the landowner in developing plant nutrient management plans. The incumbent takes soil and manure samples for analysis, interprets results, uses computer programs to determine fertilizer and manure applications rates for various cropping systems based on realistic yield goals. Prepares materials for each producer for cultural resource evaluations, wetland determinations, etc.
- Computer knowledge and software knowledge used for nutrient management and conservation planning is a requirement. GIS program knowledge is also required.

- Educates agricultural producers and landowners on the various financial assistance programs available by the District and NRCS. Programs include District conservation cost-share, State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program, EQIP, AMA, CRP, CREP, etc. Knowledge of all these programs is required.
- Assists with District cost-share sign-up periods by meeting with the applicant, takes applications, calculate structure sizes, and informing the landowner of program rules and guidelines. This also includes the inspection of cover crops after planting and destruction of the crop.
- Complete status reviews at the request of the District Conservationist.
- Maintains records and files with emphasis on documentation.
- Maintains accurate, clear, and comprehensive log of all phases of work.
- Attend meetings of the Sussex Conservation District Board of Supervisors, inter-agency groups, public meetings, etc. at the request of the District Coordinator and/or Director of Ag Programs.
- Must keep a positive and courteous attitude when dealing with the public and fellow employees.
- Submits periodic and special reports as requested.
- Performs other related duties as requested by the District Coordinator and/or Director of Ag Programs.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The physical demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to an individual with disabilities to perform essential functions. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds.

REQUIREMENTS

Desired Education & Experience

- BS in agriculture, environmental science, natural resources, or related field is preferred.
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel, databases, and ArcGIS a plus.
- Delaware Nutrient Management Certification must be obtained as a condition of employment within one year.
- Remote Sensing knowledge and experience is a plus.
- Willingness to become an ASA Certified Crop Advisor is preferred.