

Urban Agriculture Soil Conservationist – Capitol Conservation District

Summary

Title: Urban Ag Soil Conservationist

Division: Capitol Conservation District

Campaign End Date: October 30, 2020

Description

Job Title: Urban Agriculture Soil Conservationist

Division: Capitol Conservation District

Headquarters: USDA Service Center, Cross Lanes, WV

FLSA Status: Non-exempt

This position is contingent on grant funding; it is expected, but not assured, that funding will continue. In the event of funding loss, this position may be terminated.

Nature of Work:

This position delivers technical assistance in sustainability and conservation of natural resources in Capitol Conservation District (CCD) with an emphasis on promoting urban agriculture within the district. CCD is composed of Kanawha County in West Virginia.

Examples of Work:

- Provide increased opportunities for individuals and historically underserved clientele to receive technical assistance in CCD.
- Provide education and outreach to increase the public's awareness and understanding of the NRCS and CCD programs and assist with project implementation.
- Through education and outreach efforts, increase producers' understanding and utilization of conservation plans to improve conservation practices related to planning and production.
- Educate producers on varying conservation practices that can be installed to combat identified resource concerns on private land.
- Provide ongoing technical assistance and education in programs to fit operational goals.
- Develop conservation plans based on accepted practices to address resource concerns related to planning and production issues such as, crop rotation, season extension, irrigation systems, nutrient and pest management, mulching, etc.
- Conduct outreach and deliver conservation planning assistance for all types of farming and natural resource related operations.
- Other duties as assigned.

Working Conditions:

Sitting, standing, walking and/or driving for extended periods, working extended hours that may include overnight travel or weekends as needed. Capable of lifting 40 lbs. or more.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Advanced knowledge of computers and software including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint) to retrieve and utilize information and resources from multiple sources.
- Ability to read, analyze, and interpret information contained in general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or government regulations.
- Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals.
- Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers, and the general public, including public speaking.
- Ability to organize, plan and teach to individuals and in group settings.
- Ability to accurately perform various calculations such as proportions, percentages, area, circumference, and volume; basic algebra and geometry; and conversion of units of weights, measurements, volumes, and distances, etc.
- Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram, or schedule form to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists.
- Advanced ability to work collaboratively to plan, schedule, and organize local activities independently or with partners using remote technologies (i.e. cloud services, CRM, etc.).
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail to maintain records of resources, client/producer files, and project records according to prescribed format.
- Advanced ability to take direction and work independently.
- Excellent skills in developing and maintaining courteous, professional relationships with internal team members, superiors, subordinates and external clients, including small business owners, regardless of profession, and the general public.

- Ability to walk extensively to tour producer businesses, including on-farm site visits.

Qualifications:

Education: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a minimum of a four (4) year degree in agriculture, natural sciences or a related field is preferred, but not required.

Experience: A preference will be given to a person with a farming/food production background or experience in the agricultural industry or related natural science field for at least four (4) years.

Additional Requirements:

- Valid driver's license.
- Satisfactory completion of pre-employment drug testing.
- Satisfactory completion of pre-employment law enforcement background investigation, including DMV records.
- Must maintain a positive image of the state and federal agencies with whom they are working with locally.

This description is subject to review and revision at the discretion of the CCD and their designees.