



COUNTY OF YORK
invites applications for the position of:

Ag Resource Conservation Specialist 1

SALARY: \$18.29 Hourly
DEPARTMENT: Conservation District
OPENING DATE: 02/04/20

POSITION SUMMARY:

Promote soil and water conservation to improve and protect soil and water quality in York County by providing conservation planning, technical assistance and education to landowners and operators in order to advance farm conservation plan development and best management practice implementation. Provide related technical assistance performing plan review, site assessment, survey and construction verification for the implementation of the State Erosion Control Program, the State Nutrient Management Act, Ag Preservation Program and various state & federal Ag programs, in conjunction with Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the State Conservation Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), York Field Office.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop a basic understanding of the State Nutrient Program, including but not limited to the following: plan reviews, required annual status reviews, plan writing, complaint investigation, program administration, education and outreach efforts.
- Begin Apprentice Conservation Planner training process. Begin to work with cooperators to determine objectives, identify resource concerns and develop alternatives.
- Work with the planning staff in development and implementation of conservation systems, which would include awareness of Natural Resource Conservation Planning Techniques.
- Perform preliminary site assessment of District Cooperators.
- Provide program assistance and conservation planning for other state and federal Ag programs.
- Assist in collection of before data and development of Nutrient Management Program.
- Assist in implementation of Nutrient Management Plan and BMP installation.
- Assist with the preparation of required reports and data for submission to PA DEP & PDA.
- Assist landowners with interpretations and revision of the Nutrient Management Program plans.
- Perform annual status reviews and necessary contract revisions of program cooperators.
- Assist in the development and improvement of the program record keeping system.
- Develop educational programs, projects, and demonstrations.
- Promote the Cooperator Program through personal contacts, group meetings, mailings, tours, field days, and use of available media sources.
- Assist the Senior Ag Resource Conservationist with the implementation of District Ag Programs.
- Work to obtain Public Review Certification and perform nutrient plan reviews per the state Nutrient Management Law.
- Develop nutrient plans as necessary and appropriate for Program participants.
- Complete weekly activity sheet, monthly activity reports for the Board and other required plan and projects schedules.
- Participate in continuing educational programs
- Attend technical training to update and maintain required skill and abilities.
- Attend as requested, the monthly meetings of the District's Board of Directors.
- Attend as requested, District Ag Committee meetings.
- Perform complaint investigations related to Manure or Nutrient Management.
- Work to achieve compliance with the Nutrient Management Law.
- Recommend sites for referral by the board to the State Conservation Commission for follow-up compliance activity.

- Provide information to clients on the various Ag programs and encourage landowners to become Cooperators with the district.
- Must develop and maintain an Individual Development Plan (IDP) to provide development/enhancement skills and guide training needs.
- Assist the District Office with special events as requested such as Envirothon events, displays, seedling sale, etc. Serve on committees as assigned.
- Works beyond normal working hours and on weekends when necessary.
- Attend training workshops and meetings to stay current with the latest techniques and innovations.
- Other reasonable duties as assigned by Supervisor.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree in Agronomy, Environmental Resource Management, Ag Education, or related Ag field or equivalent combination of technical experience, education and training.
- Understanding of the basic dynamics of production agriculture and crop farming.
- Understand the basic principles of natural resource conservation and water quality protection on farm operations.

LICENSING and SKILLS

- Must possess a PA driver's license and clean driving record.
- As a condition of continuing employment, the individual must be able to obtain a cell phone service contract by the end of their probationary period. This position requires using a cell phone for relaying pertinent information and assessing the location and safety of staff while in the field. (A stipend will be provided by the County to help offset the monthly expense).
- Must have knowledge of computer operations and be able to use Microsoft Word, Excel and Access applications.
- Familiarity with agronomy and dynamics of farming and agricultural systems.
- Knowledge of algebra, geometry and trigonometry.
- Skill in numerical and verbal reasoning.
- Ability to read and interpret technical literature, engineering plans, blue prints and tables.
- Ability to perceive mechanical, physical and spatial relationships.
- Knowledge of soils and the use of the soil survey.
- Ability to work independently and as a member of the office team.
- Ability to learn land survey techniques used in design and implementation of Best Management Practices. Perform construction certification of BMPs.
- Must be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing to a wide range of individuals.
- Must be able to obtain Public Review Nutrient Certifications and perform nutrient plan reviews per the state Nutrient Management Law.
- Must be able to work independently following provided direction and supervision.
- Ability to operate equipment including digital cameras, audiovisual equipment, survey equipment and basic office equipment (copier, fax, telephone).
- Ability to follow and or plan sequential steps of a plan or project.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE FILED ONLINE AT:
<http://www.yorkcountypa.gov>

Position #0109
 AG RESOURCE CONSERVATION SPECIALIST 1
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