OBJECTIVE: The Conservation Services Manager provides support and technical assistance to farmers and landowners across Iowa to execute diverse resource conservation projects in coordination with other research projects within the Research Center for Farming Innovation.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Identification of in-field and edge-of-field conservation and agronomy practices for continual improvement of profitable production, soil and water resource management practices, and farmer/landowner goals
- Provide technical assistance and support for in-field and edge-of-field conservation and agronomic practices, specifically including: oxbow wetlands, bioreactors, saturated buffers, pollinator plantings, and other habitat related efforts
- Execution of conservation projects including monitoring and collection of data and management information
- Provide support for research and outreach efforts on evaluation and implementation of edge of field practices and related Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Assist with connecting farmers and landowners with data, information, decision tools, financial assistance and securing necessary technical design standards for practice
- Maintain quality control requirements, data management, reporting, and construction design and oversight in accordance with SOPs and
- Provide data summarization and analysis of results to farmers, state and federal agencies and other collaborators
- Work cooperatively with the Research Center for Farming Innovation, landowners, and farmers across Iowa to actively increase farmer participation and successful engagement in programs and projects
- Build relationships and coordinate projects with project sponsors and a variety of audiences including farmers, landowners, local ag retail staff, CCA’s, USDA Service Center personnel, extension, NGO partners, and other commodity organizations
Conduct education and outreach to various audiences including the general public and project stakeholders
Develop both written and verbal presentations, guides, protocols, and communication outreach materials when needed to support research programs and projects
Manage contracts with funding organizations (State, Federal, corporate, other), contractors, and farmers
Prepare work plans, budgets, quarterly and annual reports, and support grant development
Coordinate with other ISA departments and staff embracing the culture of ISA and emulate that to the team

COMPETENCIES

Practical understanding and application of agronomy and conservation
Prioritizing and organizing work
Demonstrate initiative
Relationship and network building
Customer service
Evaluating and implementing ideas
Acting as a champion for change
Communicating effectively

TRAVEL

This position requires frequent travel throughout the state and occasionally may require an overnight stay.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

This position has no supervisory responsibility.

REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Bachelor’s degree in agronomy, environmental sciences, agricultural engineering, biological sciences, ecology, ag economics, sociology, or related field
Minimum of two years of experience working in agronomy or conservation
Strong understanding of:
  Conservation practices and financial support programs
  Agricultural industry and the ag retail system
  Cropping systems
Capable of working in a team environment while working independently to achieve specific project deliverables
Understanding of computer technologies including data storage, statistical software, GIS, and monitoring equipment interfaces
Ability to communicate effectively verbally and written with diverse audiences

PREFERRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Master's degree in agronomy, agricultural engineering, environmental/biological sciences, or related field
- Project management skills

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand; walk; sit; drive long distances; walk in fields and uneven terrain; collect water samples from streams, tile outlets, and other water sources; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 70 pounds.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is exposed to weather conditions prevalent at the time. The noise level in the work environment will vary.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

This job operates in a professional office environment. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, and software platforms such as Office 365. Occasional field work is required and sampling equipment such as water sampling equipment, handheld garden shears, soil probes, and GPS equipment are also used.

Benefits

- Medical, Dental and Vision insurance
- Flexible Spending Account available
- Cellphone and Wellness reimbursement
- 401(k) with generous company match
- Tuition reimbursement program
- Dress for your Day Dress Code

Accessibility: If you need an accommodation as part of the employment process please contact Human Resources

Equal Opportunity Employer, including disabled and veterans.