

Soil Scientist

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service
STATE COMPLIANCE

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Summary

This position is located in the Iowa State Office and serves as a Staff Soil Scientist in the provision of direct wetland determination assistance to Field Offices and Producers.


[Learn more about this agency](#)

Overview

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Accepting applications

Open & closing dates

 06/26/2024 to 07/02/2024

Salary

\$39,868 - \$64,203 per year

Pay scale & grade

GS 5 - 7

[? Help](#)

Locations

1 vacancy in the following locations:

 Ankeny, IA

 Nevada, IA

 Webster City, IA

Remote job

No

Telework eligible

Yes—as determined by the agency policy.

Travel Required

Occasional travel - You may be expected to travel for this position.

Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

Appointment type

Permanent

Work schedule

Full-time

Service

Competitive

Promotion potential

11

Job family (Series)

[0470 Soil Science](#)

Supervisory status

No

Security clearance

[Other](#)

Drug test

No

Position sensitivity and risk

[Non-sensitive \(NS\)/Low Risk](#)

Trust determination process

[Suitability/Fitness](#)

Announcement number

NRCS-24-12455572-DE-IA-CS

Control number

797353500

This job is open to

[? Help](#)



[Career transition \(CTAP, ICTAP, RPL\)](#)

Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.



[The public](#)

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

Clarification from the agency

This position is open to all U.S. citizens and Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP), Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP), and Reemployment Priority List (RPL) eligibles.

Videos

FPAC USAJobs Video



Duties

- Assists in data collection in support of FSA-569's and appeals.
- Completes preliminary wetland determinations using on-site and off-site methodology.
- Assists with on-site field investigations to support preliminary wetland determinations, reconsiderations, and converted wetlands.
- Reviews and makes recommendations for revision of technical guides and other charts and tables made to interpret soil survey information.
- Serves as a team member assisting a compliance team to ensure field office staffs are applying soils data and information properly in conservation planning and application.

Requirements

Conditions of Employment

- You must be a US Citizen or US National
- Males born after 12/31/1959 must be Selective Service registered or exempt
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check
- Successful completion of one-year probationary period, unless previously served.
- Direct Deposit: Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit E-Verify at <https://www.e-verify.gov/>

Qualifications

Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of the announcement including specialized experience and/or education, as defined below.

Basic Education Requirement:

Degree: soil science or a closely related discipline that included 30 semester hours or equivalent in biological, physical, or earth science, with a minimum of 15 semester hours in such subjects as soil genesis, pedology, soil chemistry, soil physics, and soil fertility; **OR**

Combination of education and experience: courses equivalent to a major in soil science or a related discipline that included at least 30 semester hours in the biological, physical, or earth sciences. At least 15 of these semester hours must have been in the areas specified above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

In addition to meeting one of the basic requirements listed above, applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications requirement in order to be considered:

Specialized Experience:

For the GS-05 grade level: Must meet the basic education requirement only.

For the GS-07 grade level: To qualify for the GS-07 grade level, you must possess at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-05 level or higher in the Federal service (or private sector equivalent). Specialized experience is defined as: Developing and disseminating soil information for use in conservation planning; providing soil data assistance to landowners and/or conservation partners; Manipulating digital and analog geospatial data such as soil survey and soil investigations, climate, vegetation, geology, land use, or topography. **OR**

Superior Academic Achievement in a bachelor's degree curriculum directly related to the work of the position. To qualify for superior academic achievement, you must have ONE of the following: (1) standing in the upper third of your college class or major subdivision at the time you apply; (2) grade point average of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or its equivalent for all courses completed, either (a) at the time of application or (b) during the last 2 years of your undergraduate curriculum; (3) B+ (3.5 on a 4.0 scale) or its equivalent for all courses completed in a related discipline, either (a) at the time of application or (b) during the last 2 years of your undergraduate curriculum; OR (4) election to membership in one of the national honorary scholastic societies that meets the requirements of the Association of College Honor Society; **OR**

Substitution of education in lieu of specialized experience (1) one year of graduate-level education in soil science or a directly related discipline; **OR**

Combination of Education and Experience: A combination of graduate-level education and experience, as described above, may be used to qualify for this position. This combination must have equipped you with the necessary knowledge and/or experience to successfully perform the duties of this position. Combinations of experience and education must total at least 100% as outlined in OPM Qualifications policy.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

Education

If you are relying on your education to meet qualification requirements:

You must submit a copy of your transcripts to include course number, title, completion and grade. Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from [schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education](#). If a relevant course is not clearly qualifying (e.g. special topic, seminar, research, thesis, obscure or misleading course title, etc.), please submit an official course syllabi and/or detailed course description from the university/college for that particular course to ensure you are properly evaluated. Please note that qualifications determinations are based solely on the information submitted for each particular vacancy announcement.

Important: If you are using foreign education to meet qualification requirements, you must send a Certificate of Foreign Equivalency with your transcript in order to receive credit for that education. Click on this [link](#) for more information.

Failure to provide all of the required documents/information as stated in this vacancy announcement may result in an ineligible rating or may affect the overall rating.

Additional information

[Read more](#)

Benefits

How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

Applications will be evaluated in accordance with Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Delegated Examining Procedures and USDA policy using category rating. Applicants who meet basic minimum qualifications will be placed in one of three categories: **Best Qualified, Well Qualified, or Qualified**. Within these categories, applicants eligible for veteran's preference will receive selection priority over non-veterans. Category placement will be determined based on

applicants' quality of experience and the extent they possess the following knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) or competencies:

- - Soil Science
 - Technical Competence

Your application, including the online Assessment Questionnaire, will be reviewed to determine if you meet (a) minimum qualification requirements and (b) the resume supports the answers provided to the job-specific questions. Your resume must clearly support your responses to all the questions addressing experience and education relevant to this position. Those determined to be in the best qualified category will be referred to the selecting official for consideration.

Note: If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your score may be adjusted to more accurately reflect your abilities, or you may be found ineligible. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.

Clicking the link below will present a preview of the application form; i.e. the online questionnaire. The application form link below will only provide a preview and does not initiate the application process. To initiate the online application process, click the "Apply" button to the right.

To view the application form, visit: <https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/12455572>

Benefits

Required Documents

How to Apply

Fair and Transparent

Required Documents



The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents

will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application if it includes your name and the necessary course information; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are private organizations that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. For a list of private organizations that evaluate education, visit the [NACES](#) website. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.
- If claiming veteran's preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted. Veteran's preference must be verified prior to appointment. Without this documentation, you will not receive veteran's preference and your application will be evaluated based on the material(s) submitted.
- If claiming 10-point veteran's preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference. For more information on veterans' preference visit [FEDSHIREVETS](#)
- Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority must provide: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.

How to Apply

[Read more](#)

Agency contact information

 Cotrena Sherman

Phone

[803-253-3297](tel:803-253-3297)

Email

cotrena.sherman@usda.gov

Address

Natural Resources Conservation Service
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250
US

[Learn more about this agency.](#)

Next steps

[Read more](#)

Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Criminal history inquiries](#)

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[Financial suitability](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)

[Social security number request](#)

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