



Agricultural Outreach Specialist

Location: Frenchtown NRCS Service Center

Classification: Full-time (37.5 hours/week)

The North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council (North Jersey RC&D) is a nonprofit organization seeking to hire an Agricultural Outreach Specialist to work as a partner employee with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS and North Jersey RC&D have a shared and complimentary mission to assist land users to conserve their soil, water, and related natural resources.

The Agricultural Outreach Specialist will work with landowners and producers to prepare conservation plans, establish conservation practices, and encourage individuals to explore and implement various conservation and agricultural programs that will enhance producer and agricultural viability based on sound resource management principles. The partner employee will be housed in the Frenchtown NRCS Service Center with workload to be directed by the NRCS District Conservationist and the North Jersey RC&D Associate Director.

This position includes both field and office support as the individual will be involved in the planning and implementation of projects, as well as, preparation of resource management plans.

Responsibilities:

- Work directly with landowners and agricultural producers to identify, plan and implement conservation practices that support sustainable agriculture;
- Communicate effectively on how to conserve soil, improve water quality, manage nutrients, and protect and improve wildlife habitat;
- Develop and maintain good working relationships with agricultural producers;
- Communicate effectively, explain USDA-NRCS and other conservation programs to landowners;
- Assist in developing conservation contracts with landowners;
- Participate in conservation field tours and represent NJRC&D at various outreach events.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in soil conservation, agricultural or natural resource discipline, such as horticulture, agronomy, soil science, forestry, agricultural education, or environmental science/engineering;
- 2+ years of relevant work experience; preferably seeking an individual with in-field experience and/or farming background;

- Possess a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of soil, water and environmental conservation as they relate to agricultural operations, including knowledge of Ag BMP practices such as cover crop, nutrient management, soil erosion control, manure management and riparian buffers;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, and strong interpersonal skills;
- Excellent computer skills – Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS experience a plus;
- Ability to pass a Federal Background check and Employment Eligibility Verification
- Must possess a valid driver's license.

An ideal candidate is someone who:

- Demonstrates initiative and has a positive attitude;
- Has a willingness to bring up new ideas and be a champion for conservation;
- Exhibits strong professionalism and work ethic;
- Is an organized self-starter, able to work independently in executing responsibilities while also collaborating with others.

Terms of employment:

- Full-time position, competitive nonprofit benefits package available;
- Pay based on qualifications and experience;
- Position based on contribution agreement and grant funding;
- Position located at the NRCS Frenchtown Service Center.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a resume and cover letter outlining your interest, along with a list of references by email to ltessieri@northjerseyrcd.org:

Laura Tessieri, Associate Director
North Jersey RC&D

We strongly encourage all qualified professionals to apply. The North Jersey RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, national origin, ethnic background, disability or any other characteristic protected by law.

The North Jersey RC&D is a nonprofit organization initiated in 1962 to help people care for and protect their natural resources to improve an area's economy, environment and living standards. We work within Hunterdon, Warren, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Union counties. Our mission is to work towards the sustainable use and protection of natural and human resources through innovation, education and partnerships. Visit us on the web: www.northjerseyrcd.org