



Precision Conservation Crop Field & Lab Assistant

Division/Organization: USDA-ARS Dairy Forage Research Center

Job Type: Local student jobs

Remote Eligibility: Not remote

Location: 1925 Linden Drive West, Madison, WI 53706

Salary/Wage Range: Hourly \$16.35

Job Categories: Agriculture and Natural Resources, STEM

Anticipated Start Date: 5/2/2024, flexible

Anticipated Hours Per Week: Flexible during semester; up to 40 hours/week, Monday through Friday, during summer break.

Number of Positions: 1-2

Applications Close: 03/01/2024

Position Summary/Job Duties:

Interested in cover crops, ag technology, and sustainable farming research? The Precision Conservation Crop Lab at the US Dairy Forage Research Center is seeking a field and lab assistant to provide support for our research at the 2,200-acre research farm near Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, and in our lab on the UW campus in Madison.

Responsibilities will include:

- Collection of data in the field including plant growth measurements, soil sampling, and aboveground biomass collection
- Proper handling and preparation of soil and biomass samples in the field and laboratory;
- Routine soil nutrient and forage quality lab analyses;
- Careful and detailed record-keeping;
- Assistance with technology used for data collection (e.g., GPS)

The field & lab assistant will gain experience with soil and forage sampling, field and lab measurements, precision research techniques, and have an opportunity to learn more about agricultural systems in the context of a working dairy farm.

The field & lab assistant will report to the US Dairy Forage Research Center on the west side of the UW-Madison campus. Work will occur in the lab on campus or outdoors at the Prairie du Sac Agricultural Research Station with the possibility of travel to the ARS research station in Marshfield, WI. A fleet vehicle for travel to the research station will be provided. We are looking for applicants who can work up to 40 hours/week during the summer season. Summer workdays will generally be 8- hour shifts, Monday – Friday. The position will occasionally require longer days depending on weather and intensive sampling periods, and shorter days between harvests or sampling periods.

The field & lab assistant position is seasonal and will take place from May to August 31, 2024, with the potential to extend the hiring period into the fall on a part-time basis. Spring (May) start date and schedule can be flexible to accommodate classwork.



Physical Demands: Physical labor under ALL weather conditions. We are looking for dependable, motivated applicants to join our research team.

Application Instructions: Please send a cover letter and resume, including relevant job experience or coursework, to KC.Cifizzari@USDA.gov. Interviews will begin after job announcement closes 3/01/2024.