

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- Position Title:** Agronomist: Soil and Nutrient Management Educator (#29644)
(Fixed Term Appointment, Renewed Annually)
- Counties:** Capital Region, Cumberland County (based), serving Adams, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Perry
- Office Location:** Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Office
310 Allen Road
Carlisle, PA 17013

Brief Summary of Duties: This individual will function as a member of the agronomy educational team in the Capital Region. With an office based in Cumberland County, the agent will serve the nine county Capital Region. This individual will be part of an agronomy team consisting of five other extension agronomists in the region, along with supporting agricultural agents and faculty specialists. Major responsibilities will include planning, implementing, conducting, and evaluating extension educational programs in the broad areas of nutrient management education, soil quality and soil health, basic physical and chemical properties of soils, and agronomic application of organic residuals. In carrying out these duties, the individual is responsible to the Cumberland County Extension Director and the Capital Region Director.

Specific Program Responsibilities:

1. Identify problems, opportunities, and educational needs of clientele (both producer and industry groups) in the broad areas of soil and nutrient management.
2. In conjunction with agronomy team, plan, conduct, and evaluate educational programs with specific responsibility in the following areas:
 - Nutrient management including understanding of regulations and rules
 - Tillage systems relating to soil erosion control, soil quality and health, compaction, and farm efficiency including economics, time and conservation of energy
 - Agronomic application of organic residuals including animal manure, composts, and municipal bio-solids
 - Water quality related to agricultural production
3. Serve as liaison to agencies and organizations related to mitigation of environmental impacts as related to soil and water management and conservation.
4. Cooperate with agronomy team and additional staff in the region, as well as appropriate faculty specialists to develop and conduct a comprehensive regional extension educational program in agronomy and within the context of a total agriculture production system.
5. Serve as a liaison between clientele and appropriate faculty in the College of Agricultural Sciences, as well as other colleges, institutions of higher education, and outreach partners.

6. Prepare educational materials that are relevant to and that enhance the educational process for targeted individuals and groups.
7. Utilize input from program planning advisory committees as well as county extension boards and county extension directors to meet the expressed agronomic program needs in the region.
8. Maintain a working relationship with existing agencies and agribusiness organizations to strengthen or extend agricultural programs.
9. Maintain competency in microcomputers in the delivery and management of extension educational programs.
10. Develop personal job objectives and submit program and administrative reports as appropriate.
11. Perform other duties and responsibilities as assigned the County Extension Director and/or Capital Region Director.
12. Ensure compliance with the affirmative action plan. Through public notification and "All Reasonable Efforts," make all programs accessible to clientele without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree is required. Preference will be given to candidates who have one or more degrees in agronomy, soil science, or related field and are eligible as a certified crop advisor. Master's degree preferred. Candidate should possess teaching, program development and evaluation skills, and demonstrate positive human relations and effective communication skills necessary to work effectively with area farmers, industry, government officials, and general public.

Rank/Salary: Salary and educator rank commensurate with education, training and experience.

Cumberland County Cooperative Extension is a unit of Penn State and as such, offers a competitive and liberal benefits package. This position is renewed annually based on availability of funding. Applications and a detailed announcement are available by writing, calling or emailing bss1@psu.edu, Human Resource Services, 306 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802; telephone 814-863-3452; FAX 814-863-6215. The closing date for accepting resumes and applications is May 8, 2009, or until a suitable candidate has been selected.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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Cumberland County

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