

Position: Soil Health Field Agronomist – Indiana & Illinois

POSITION PURPOSE

The Soil Health Field Agronomist will provide technical assistance and educational resources to the Soil Health Partnership Farm network farmers and surrounding community members. This position manages and maintains knowledge to connect and leverage relationships/networks, research and communications tools, and information to increase effectiveness and efficiency across relevant agricultural and non-agricultural networks in the assigned territory. The Soil Health Field Agronomist will assist the Director of Soil Health and Sustainability in planning and delivering key project objectives within the territory.

Specific Role Responsibilities

- Manages key relationships with Soil Health Partnership Farm Network farmers, agronomists and collaborators
- Manages the logistical detail involved with Soil Health Partnership field-based applied research programs
- Coordination of the collection and submission of soil sample, harvest yield and economic data information from the Soil Health Partnership Demonstration Farm Network farmers
- Provides technical advice for enhanced agricultural systems through cover crops, conservation tillage and adaptive nutrient management
- Organizes and delivery of training materials and coaching for Soil Health Partnership Demonstration Farm Network farmers
- Networks and coordinates with locally relevant agricultural and non-agricultural groups to enhance collective efforts to improve soil health
- Plans and manages the logistical details for Soil Health Partnership events

Required Skills/Experience:

- Education and/or experience equivalent to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy, Soil Science, Plant Pathology, Horticulture or related discipline with a minimum of 4 years of work experience in an agronomic related field OR a Master of Science in Agronomy, Soil Science, Plant Pathology, Horticulture or related discipline may be substituted for years of work experience requirement.
- Experience in precision agricultural data management and software programs
- Working experience of relationship management, recommendations, on-farm experimentation and interpretation of results
- Experience planning and implementing customer-type, farmer and agronomist events
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Willingness to travel extensively within the assigned territory, with occasional national travel.

Desired Skills/Experience:

- Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) certification.
- Experience in making recommendations for optimized agricultural systems
- Experience in precision agricultural data management and software programs
- Demonstrated ability to plan and manage on-farm research trials

Time Requirements:

- This position is full-time with travel required within assigned territory and occasional national travel.

PROGRAM CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Customer support - Responsive to needs of members and prospects. Takes personal responsibility for service delivered. Is courteous and responsive to members. Sets realistic expectations with members regarding requests for additional services.
- Team support - Is seen as a collaborator, and one who can contribute in a team setting. Encourages all members to participate, and keeps team focused on goals and objectives. Demonstrates a willingness to work with all those involved in the task at hand.
- Initiative - Acts independently while working to achieve performance objectives. Takes action to improve or remedy situations that may be problematic by offering solutions, insights, and suggestions to those involved.
- Adaptability - Adapts to change, is open to new ideas, takes on new responsibilities, handles pressure, and adjusts plans to meet changing needs.
- Results Focus - Can be counted on to meet or exceed goals; pushes self and others for results; is a conscientious worker who can be relied upon to handle unforeseen obstacles.
- Customer Focus - Meets internal and external customer expectations; delivers upon commitments; build customer confidence; follows through on requests gaining trust and respect.
- Judgement - Uses good problem solving and analytical skills in making decisions. Thinks through the impact of decisions and actions on other people and programs.
- Coordination- independently cross checks data, projects, and communications across geography and multi-level collaborations with partnering organizations.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to soilhealth@ncga.com by Sept. 15.

Please visit soilhealthpartnership.org for more information on the Soil Health Partnership.