

Position Description

MI NRCS Technical Assistance Initiative Soil Conservationist

INTRODUCTION

The Michigan NRCS Technical Assistance Initiative Soil Conservationist position is funded through a three-year grant provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This grant is held by the Clinton Conservation District and will support federal Farm Bill program implementation in Clinton County focusing on the Maple River watershed. This position is employed by the Clinton Conservation District and work assignments will be provided in partnership with the NRCS District Conservationist.

DUTIES

1. Outreach & Education (40-50%)
 - Provide technical assistance and resources to landowners and producers
 - Serve as a part of a steering committee to plan meetings, workshops and field days
 - Engage landowners in conservation through field days, workshops, local meetings and a farmer-led watershed coalition
2. Conservation Planning (35-40%)
 - Conduct field visits, as necessary, to identify resource concerns and meet with interested landowners and producers
 - Develop conservation plans to address resource concerns
 - Implement conservation practices to restore and protect water quality
 - Assist District Conservationist with contract modifications, payments and other financial transactions
3. Other Duties (10-15%)
 - Assists in developing news articles, social media posts and web site blogs as needed to promote Farm Bill and District programs
 - Provide office coverage, as needed, and support District activities and programs, including tree sales, annual meetings and field days
 - Attend MACD conferences, District board meetings and staff meetings
 - Prepares reports to comply with grant requirements

SKILLS REQUIRED

- General knowledge of local agricultural production and conservation practices
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with coworkers and the general public
- Ability to carry out duties and set work schedule, following up with landowners and producers in a timely manner
- Pass a federal background check and hold a valid Michigan driver's license

- Ability to operate and maintain equipment (computers, vehicles, survey levels, etc.) safely.

This position requires a Bachelor of Science degree in a Natural Resource or Agriculture related field. Experience may be considered in lieu of some requirements.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Work requires personal contact with co-workers, contractors, landowners and operators to exchange information, provide technical assistance and to implement Farm Bill practices. Some work will be conducted in the field and may require walking on rough terrain, carrying equipment or climbing embankments. Protective gear, such as hard hats, boots and gloves, may be necessary during field visits.

This position is a full-time, 40 hour per week grant-funded position. Salary is dependent on experience, \$19-22 per hour. Normal work hours are 8am to 4:30pm, although some evenings and Saturday events may be required. Employees are eligible to gain compensatory time, as outlined in the personnel policy, for any hours worked in excess of 40. Benefits include paid holidays, sick leave and vacation according to District policies and access to the District's deferred compensation plan.