

DEPARTMENT: NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT
CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE
APPROVED: MARCH 25, 2019

NATURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is technical work involving responsibility for assisting the Conservation District Field Manager in field surveys, design and supervision of conservation projects. The technician is responsible for the review, planning, application, design and implementation of natural resource conservation practices to landowners, units of government, agencies and organizations. Incumbents perform a variety of technical duties related to the establishment of conservation practices concerning land and water on public and private properties, management of invasive species, and water quality monitoring of local streams. Responsibilities also include technical planning, design and implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) as part of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Soil and Water District Manager. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Implements a watershed-based tiered planning Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program;
2. Develops AEM plans for agricultural operations and prepares necessary GIS maps for the plans;
3. Collaborates with other project team members to effectively carry out AEM planning projects;
4. Collaborates with landowners to determine specific agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) required for control of non-point source pollution;
5. Coordinates and conducts invasive species removal efforts using manual and chemical (herbicide) methods;
6. Conducts surveys to identify locations of invasive species, assists with data collection, maintains records of management activities, and provides written reports on management efforts;
7. Assists with the survey, layout and design of BMPs as necessary;
8. Conducts implementation and construction inspection for BMPs in accordance with USDA-NRCS standards and specifications;
9. Documents current and past BMP construction and implementation activities;
10. Assists in the survey and design of drainage conservation projects such as subsurface drainage, waterways and drainage ditches and tile;
11. Does field layout of limited conservation practices;
12. Establishes, implements and maintains a county-wide watershed based water quality monitoring program and then analyzes the data and reports findings;
13. Conducts pond site evaluations and provides pond site improvement recommendations;
14. Attends training sessions as a part of an annual training plan;
15. Assists in preparing maps and specifications using a geographic information system (GIS) program and assists consultants with aerial photograph and various map interpretations;
16. Collects data for the purpose of practice design and cost estimation including sediment and erosion control plans;
17. Provides critical area seeding recommendations for the County-Wide Hydro-seeding Initiative and assists in maintaining conservation practices on the land by establishing grass seedings, stone rip-rap, fencing and other planned conservation endeavors;
18. Reviews conservation plans and offers advice when conservation practices need maintenance;
19. Maintains simple records utilizing word processing, spreadsheet and database programs;
20. Writes various grant applications for projects to improve water and environmental quality;
21. Coordinates with federal, state, and local governmental agencies regarding their projects and concerns;
22. Assists with and attends public informational meetings pertaining to water and environmental quality;
23. Assists with education and outreach activities.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of agricultural conservation with emphasis on soil and water conservation practices as they affect water quality and agricultural operations; good knowledge of Agricultural Best Management Practices and their role in Agricultural Environmental Management planning; good knowledge of invasive species management; working knowledge of materials and procedures used in the construction of drainage systems, ponds, forests and other conservation projects; working knowledge of arithmetic; working knowledge of engineering surveying; skill in identifying invasive species; oral and written communication skills; excellent interpersonal skills; ability to use modern computer software programs (including GIS), equipment, and related peripherals at an acceptable rate of speed and accuracy; ability to use survey equipment to perform topographic surveys; ability to develop cost estimates; ability to document work and prepare reports; ability to get along well with others; ability to work independently or as part of a team; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions; ability to provide direction to others; ability to lift up to fifty (50) pounds; ability and willingness to work primarily outdoors in extreme temperature and inclement weather; manual dexterity; mechanical aptitude; accuracy; reliability; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma **and either:**

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture, civil engineering, natural resource conservation, environmental science, technology, or studies, or a closely related field; **or**
2. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associate's Degree in agriculture, civil engineering, natural resource conservation, environmental science or studies or a closely related field and two (2) years of paid experience in natural resource conservation, agricultural water quality management, agriculture, environmental planning, land surveying, engineering, or closely related field; **or**
3. Four (4) years of paid experience in natural resource conservation, agricultural water quality management, agriculture, environmental planning, land surveying, engineering, or closely related field.

NOTE: Verifiable part-time experience will be pro-rated towards meeting the experience requirement.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Possession of a NYS drivers license at time of appointment and throughout the duration of employment;
2. Successful completion of a federal background check.