

## **AGRONOMIST**

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This position involves performing technical work and studies for the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District to ensure the long-term viability of the area's prime agricultural soils. The incumbent will work on developing, reviewing, and certifying nutrient management plans (NMP) for Dutchess County agricultural producers. Work will also involve coordinating the nutrient management plans between agencies such as Cornell Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The incumbent will provide training to District staff on the preparation of nutrient management plans for implementation at farms throughout Dutchess County. Work is performed under the Executive Director and Conservation Board with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgement and initiative to correct problems related to nutrient management plans. An employee in this position may be required to work hours other than in the normal workweek and may be required to drive to various agricultural locations throughout Dutchess County. Supervision is not a function of this position.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

The following is indicative of the level and types of activities performed by incumbents in this title. It is not meant to be all inclusive and does not preclude a supervisor from assigning activities not listed which could reasonably be expected to be performed by an employee in this title.

1. Works with landowners and producers, departmental staff and outside agencies such as Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in developing, reviewing, and certifying nutrient management plans (NMP);
2. Performs field work such as collecting and testing soil samples for analysis, on-site evaluation of operations, and other field work required to complete and certify NMPs;
3. Develops and implements a prioritization process in the selection of parcels for planning and implementation efforts;
4. Assists farmers within the Dutchess County watersheds to implement practices through cost-sharing programs;
5. Designs and implements processes to effectively manage and generate reports that will document implemented practices as required by contractual stipulations;
6. Assists in implementing annual field demonstration workshops to highlight best management practices from the NRCS, such as environmental effectiveness and economic efficiencies;
7. Researches new technology and new advancements in agriculture;
8. Maintains comprehensive records and reports of programs;
9. Assists in the training of District staff regarding certified planner status.

### **FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITIES:**

Good knowledge of the principles of agricultural and natural resource sciences;  
Good knowledge of the fundamental principles of conservation planning, natural resource and watershed management;  
Good knowledge of soils, hydrology, irrigation systems and hydraulics;  
Good knowledge of the fundamental principles of drafting and design;  
Ability to prioritize, develop, review and certify conservation plans in accordance with industry standards;

## **AGRONOMIST** (Cont'd)

### **FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITIES:** (Cont'd)

Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with co-workers, the general public, and public officials;  
Ability to maintain records and to prepare accurate and comprehensive reports;  
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;  
Personal characteristics necessary to perform the duties of the position;  
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- EITHER: (A) Bachelor's degree in agronomy, soil science, soil conservation, agricultural engineering, or a related field, and two (2) years of paid work experience in the field of soil and water conservation and/or farm resources management practices;
- OR: (B) Associate's degree in agronomy, soil science, soil conservation, agricultural engineering, or a related field, and four (4) years of paid work experience as described above;
- OR: (C) An equivalent combination of education, training and experience between the limits of (A) and (B) above.

NOTE: Your degree or college credit must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education.

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENT**

Possession of a valid Driver License to operate a motor vehicle in New York State at time of application and to maintain position.

ADOPTED: 01/23/20