

Farm Bill Biologist

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Branch Conservation District is accepting applications for a Farm Bill Biologist position to provide technical assistance to agriculture producers and landowners in Branch County and the upper St. Joseph River Watershed and headwaters.

The Farm Bill Biologist position will provide program outreach, technical assistance and landowner recruitment for a wide variety of USDA Farm Bill programs with emphasis on the Pheasant Restoration Initiative. Additional emphasis will support restoration and enhancement of priority wildlife habitat. This position will be an employee of, and supervised by, the Branch Conservation District with daily instruction and leadership provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), State and local partners. This grant is administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, with support from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Duties

- Provide technical assistance (wildlife biology focus) and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations, and others primarily within the targeted area and watersheds (training will be provided by the USDA, State of Michigan, Pheasants Forever, and other local and partnering agencies).
- Coordinate the implementation and application of biological sciences within the conservation programs in cooperation with the NRCS District Conservationist, State of Michigan, Pheasants Forever, and other partners.
- Complete contracts, applications, and other required documentation for USDA conservation programs (example CRP).
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop plans and contracts for applicants enrolling in USDA conservation programs or other state and local conservation programs.
- Develop promotional materials, identify boundaries and landowners, and host meetings to establish landowner cooperatives to promote and expand the Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative.
- Seek out and identify additional funding opportunities for projects not traditionally funded by Farm Bill programs.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently with a diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, and wetland and grassland management, including the ability to utilize various habitat management tools in the development of management plans.
- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided by Federal agencies (i.e. Farm Bill, US Fish and Wildlife Service), State agencies, and Pheasants Forever. Knowledge of how these programs are implemented in an agricultural landscape is desired.
- Valid driver's license required; use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
- Able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.

Training and Experience Guideline

Applicants must have bachelor's degree in natural resources management, fisheries and wildlife, biology, or a related field.

To Apply

Submit cover letter, resume, college transcripts and references to the Branch Conservation District, 387 N. Willowbrook Rd., Ste. F, Coldwater, MI 49036 or email to Kathy.worst@mi.nacdnet.net no later than **November 29th, 2017**.