

3M Undergraduate Research Assistant Position, Community Sustainability

Position Summary:

Our team is currently seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated undergraduate research assistant to join the 'Wellbeing and Resilience' team in the Noble-FFAR funded 3M project (<https://www.noble.org/3m/>). This role is an excellent opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in applied social science research, contributing directly to the advancement of our objectives to understand the links between social wellbeing and grazing strategies, and resilience on US farms and ranches.

This is a 5-10 hours/week position with a research team in the Department of Community Sustainability, available for 6 months with the opportunity to extend as project needs require. The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in supporting our primary activities by assisting with wellbeing survey data collection and data cleaning, transcription and analysis of focus group data about resilience, and writing reports.

Duties and Responsibilities may include:

- Manage distribution of an online survey to our 60 participating farms.
- Run existing data cleaning scripts in R on the resulting survey data and verify the results.
- Transcribe qualitative resilience assessment data.
- Analysis of timelining activity data.
- Qualitative coding of data from focus groups.
- Assist in creating reports based on data analysis findings.
- Participate in team meetings and contribute to discussions on research findings.

Requirements:

- Senior student enrolled in an undergraduate program, preferably interested in fields related to environmental sustainability, food systems, sustainable agriculture.
- Strong interest in research and data analysis.
- Familiarity with data analysis tools and software (e.g., Excel, SPSS, R) is a plus, but not mandatory/essential.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent organizational skills and responsibility for meet deadlines.

Desired start date: March 2024

How to Apply:

Please submit your resume and a 1-page cover letter explaining your interest in the position and any relevant experience to jhodbod@msu.edu. Rolling review of applications will begin on February 26th. For further information contact Dr. Jenny Hodbod using the same email.