Position Announcement: Precision Conservation Specialist

The Precision Conservation Specialist will provide technical assistance to enrolled cooperators in the Precision Conservation Management program. Precision Conservation Management (PCM) is a new service program for farmers created as a joint effort between the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association, University of Illinois, and Heartland Science and Technology Group. The mission of PCM is to increase conservation adoption using precision agriculture technology and farm business management principles.

The Precision Conservation Specialist will work to educate people about water quality initiatives and the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. This person will be responsible for helping farmers participate in sustainability assessment tools, such as the Field-to-Market Fieldprint Calculator, and understand the results of the assessment which aids farmers in making decisions related to selecting and successfully implementing conservation practices on farmed land.

Qualifications:
- A Bachelor’s degree in agriculture or natural resources is required.
- A Minimum of two years of experience in the field is required.
- Strong interest in and knowledge of agricultural practices, best management practices, and water quality issues/concerns related to agriculture
- Physically able to work safely under adverse environmental conditions such as climbing in and out of ditches and walking long distances through trees and underbrush to collect water samples
- Must have and maintain a valid driver’s license and insurance and satisfactory driving record.
- Must pass background check.

What we are looking for:
- Strong and effective communicator, both written and verbal.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work with farmers and professionally manage relationships.
- Proven ability to work independently as well as in a team environment.
- Ability to prioritize a heavy and varied workload, deliver results on a timeline, and provide reports of daily and weekly activities/achievements as requested.
- Self-motivated.
- Proficient with basic computer software.

How to Apply: Letters of application must be received by April 22, 2016 for consideration. Send cover letter and resume, to: Champaign County SWCD, Renee Weitekamp, 2110 W Park Court, Ste C, Champaign, IL 61821, or email: renee.weitekamp@il.nacdnet.net. Inquiries can be made to Steve Stierwalt, Chairman, at sstwalt@prairieinet.net.

The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.