



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

www.OCSWCD.org

For: Conservation District Technician

Location: Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District
6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway
Liverpool, NY 13088

Distinguishing Features of the Class

The work involves responsibility for performing a variety of technical duties pertaining to soil and water conservation practices on public and private properties. An employee in this class is responsible for assisting with fieldwork for agricultural, environmental and forestry projects, field surveys and in the design and oversight of conservation projects.

These activities and procedures will follow the general policies established by the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. The incumbent will be under the general direction of a **Watershed Agricultural Program Manager**. Work is checked by review of plans, reports and field inspections. Supervision is not typically a function of this position. Does related work as required.

Typical Work Activities

- Conducts engineering surveys for the design and installation of soil and water conservation projects such as contour strip cropping, diversion terraces, open drainage systems, underground drainage systems, sediment retention structures, grassed and stone-center waterways and animal nutrient management structures.
- Inspects conservation practices and/or various types of public works projects during construction for proper adherence to plans and specifications, material requirements and testing procedures; maintains inspection records.
- Assists with the rental of conservation tillage equipment in multiple watersheds. Includes delivery, setup, instruct farmers on use, inspection, maintenance, tune-ups, trouble shooting, billing for service, etc. Must be mechanically inclined and able to make general repairs; care for equipment as if equipment was purchased with personal funds.
- Assists with development of (or review of) agronomy, conservation and/or whole farm planning activities to produce Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) plans on farms, including Tier I and II data collection to enroll farms into AEM, soil sampling and Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) slope assessments on croplands to support development of AEM Whole Farm Plan.
- May offer advice when conservation practices need operation and/or maintenance.
- Assists with sale and distribution of trees and shrubs.
- May arrange for delivery and placement of fish in farm ponds.
- Conducts inventories of forest land, develops forest management recommendation's and administers sale of timber resources.
- Conducts topographic surveys with Lasers and Total Station survey equipment for the design and installation of soil and water conservation practices.
- May help staff teach NYS DEC Erosion & Sediment Control Classes
- Inspect stormwater management / erosion & sediment control compliance on project sites
- May develop Erosion & Sediment Control Plans
- Assists with invasive species assessments and carrying out treatment prescriptions on municipal land/trees.
- Assists in preparing maps and specifications.
- Assists in preparing and maintaining district records and reports.
- Works with citizens and /or community groups to educate or inform them about conservation topics of concern and to negotiate conflicts or resolve complaints.
- Explore and apply for grant opportunities.

Full Performance Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Personal Characteristics

- Working knowledge of agricultural conservation implements, including their calibration, operation, maintenance/repair, delivery and setup.
- Working knowledge of the materials and procedures used in soil and water conservation construction projects.
- Working knowledge of the principles and practices used in the construction and maintenance of erosion and sediment control systems such as stormwater mitigation structures, retention basins, streambank protection, drainage systems, dam impoundments and similar structures.
- Working knowledge of the proper concepts, practices and methods used when inspecting various types of public works projects.
- Working knowledge of engineering surveying, including the use of various surveying equipment.
- Working knowledge of seeding, fertilizing and maintain vegetation as it applies to agriculture and erosion control.
- Documenting project accomplishments in a daily job book.
- Ability to conduct forest inventories and develop forest management recommendations.
- Ability to read topographical maps, air photos and engineering designs.
- Ability to make general repairs & perform maintenance of conservation equipment.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other private and public agencies, SWCD staff and the general public.
- Ability to interpret maps, charts and graphs.
- Ability to apply technology to the job duties listed above (i.e. Arc GIS, Auto CADD, Total Station survey, stream stats, EFH 2 for runoff calculations, etc.).
- Ability to communicate both orally and in the writing of letters and reports.
- Ability to follow written and oral instructions.
- Candidates with a combination of the above listed knowledge, skills and abilities listed above are encouraged to apply!

Minimum Requirements

- A) 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 Agricultural Science, Agricultural Engineering, Agronomy, Soil Conservation, Forestry, or a closely related field; **OR**
- B) Two (2) years of work experience, or its part-time equivalent, in agriculture, agronomy, forestry or the application of soil and water conservation practices; **OR**
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B).

Preferred Qualifications

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a baccalaureate degree in Agronomy, Agricultural Economics, Natural Resource Conservation, Environmental Science or a closely related field, **OR**
- B) Four (4) years of professional or paraprofessional level work experience, or its part-time equivalent, in agricultural water quality management or a closely related field; **OR**
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B).

Salary and Benefits

Health and dental insurance, annual and sick leave, NYS Retirement, NYS Deferred Compensation Plan and education reimbursement. Salary commensurate with experience. Typical range is \$33,000 - \$39,000.

Physical, Mental and Environmental Demands & Special Requirements

The employee's physical condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position, either with or without reasonable accommodations. The employee must have the physical ability to lift up to 50 pounds, walk long distances in rough terrain and be comfortable in and around flowing water to complete the work.

The incumbent must be able to accurately manage and manipulate information, using computer software and hardware systems, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Possession of a valid driver's license at the time of appointment and throughout employment.

To Apply

This is a civil service position and the successful candidate must meet all civil service requirements including taking the civil service exam.

Download from our website or call (315) 457-0325 for an application, and then send the completed application along with resume, letter of interest, a list of 3 references, and college transcripts to:

Personnel Committee – Implementation Team
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District
6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway
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All materials must be received at the District office by **1:00 p.m. on December 6, 2021**. *Faxed material will not be accepted.* Please visit www.ocswcd.org for additional information about the District and its programs.

The Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.