Research and Engagement Field Coordinator

FROM THE GROUND UP:
Using on-farm research and collaboration to accelerate adoption
of climate smart agricultural practices in the Midwest

Description:
The Ohio State University seeks a Community Outreach Representative to coordinate farmer-led on-farm research and engagement to improve the agronomic and economic performance and boost the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices in Ohio. The outreach position is based on the Ohio State CFAES Wooster Campus and will have statewide responsibilities. This 100% FTE position is 100% grant funded for up to 5 years.

Background:
The position is in support of a recently funded USDA Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) grant awarded to Ohio State in partnership with Central State University, the University of Missouri, and Lincoln University. The overall project seeks to implement collaborative research and engagement activities with farmers, farm advisors, agency staff, and agribusiness firms to improve the agronomic and economic performance of climate-smart agricultural practices (CSAPs) designed to increase carbon sequestration, improve water quality, and address other environmental goals. These include the use of multi-species cover crops, extended and diversified crop rotations, utilization of manure to reduce fertilizer inputs, and better integration of livestock and crop production systems.

The Research and Engagement Field Coordinator position will help build and maintain an Ohio on-farm research network and coordinate the fieldwork portion of this project. The successful candidate will be responsible to help recruit and support farmers who will be conducting research on their farms, coordinate with our interdisciplinary science team to schedule and carry out field sampling activities, maintain open and transparent lines of communications among farmers and university staff, supervise fieldwork team, and help organize and implement annual gatherings of farmers to review fieldwork results and plan for upcoming field seasons. They will also share information about and represent the project and its findings through extension outreach events and media. The ideal candidate will have familiarity with various types of Ohio agriculture and a range of CSAP management approaches that are being recommended for farmer adoption, and comfort and experience engaging with farmers from diverse backgrounds and farm types.
The project is directed by Dr. Douglas Jackson-Smith, a rural sociologist and Kellogg Chair and Director of the Agroecosystem Management Program in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State. The office will be located on the OSU-CFAES, Wooster campus – an interdisciplinary research station 90 minutes northeast of Columbus in the heart of a vibrant rural and agricultural landscape.

**Education/Experience:**
**Required:**
- 2+ years' experience in agricultural outreach and extension
- Familiarity with Ohio agriculture and conservation practices
- Comfort working with diverse farming and food systems audiences
- Strong communication and organization skills
- Self-directed, can work alone or in team environment
- Ability to travel frequently in Ohio
- Bachelor's Degree

**Desired:**
- Masters degree in agricultural or environmental science, social science, or related field

**Application Procedure:**
To submit an application – please provide a cover letter explaining relevant background, experience and qualifications, a current resume or curriculum vitae, and names/contact information for three references. Initial screening of applications will occur on July 1, 2024.

Internal OSU employees can apply at this link: https://www.myworkday.com/osu/d/inst/15$392530/9925$239080.htmlld

External applicants should apply here: https://osu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/OSUCareers/job/Wooster-Campus/Community-Outreach-Representative_R106746-1

Be sure to reference position #R106746 in any correspondence.

**Questions should be directed to:**
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