Extension Associate, Water Quality
Posting available December 7-December 22, 2019

Application DUE by December 22, 2019

There are six (6) total positions, headquartered in the following Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) counties of western Ohio:

1) Auglaize County Extension Office
2) Fulton County Extension Office
3) North Central Research Station (Sandusky County)
4) Paulding County Extension Office
5) Putnam County Extension Office
6) Wood County Extension Office

Overview Plan and provide educational programs and applied on-farm demonstrations on relevant local water quality issues that consider the agronomic productivity of the farm and mitigate environmental impacts of phosphorus and nitrogen nutrient plus soil erosion that affect water quality at the edge of field.

The person hired will have responsibility for a particular geographic group of counties with an expectation of working outside of that area on topics germane to their professional specialty.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Work in cooperation with Extension educator(s) to assist in planning and implementation of pro-active educational programs using innovative educational methods, both internally and externally, utilizing local and university sources. Evaluate programs to improve future design and educational outcomes.
- Develop and manage a communication plan that utilizes traditional and social media to promote use of appropriate nutrient management technologies and BMPs and showcase current research knowledge. Maintain a high level of visibility and facilitate communications with a wide range of clientele including; urban audiences, traditional and non-traditional learners, elected officials, agricultural and non-agricultural stakeholders, and environmental and special interest groups to promote the understanding of agriculture and natural resource issues. Develop an Extension program focus that specializes in one aspect of water quality (i.e., Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Organic Nutrient Utilization, or Soil Health).
- Provide one-on-one consultation to farmers, consultants, seed and fertilizer dealers, agency professionals, and environmental professionals on the use of modern nutrient
management practices including precision agriculture, modern N and P fertilizer placement options and equipment, and cover crops.

- Work directly with individual farmers on evaluating and adopting new practices and technologies appropriate to local growing conditions. Provide advice on implementation of practices such as cover crops, drainage water management, buffer strip and other nutrient trap practices. Relate production conservation information on nutrient drawdown in high soil test fields, soil compaction, soil health, controlled traffic in production field, and tillage practices including no-till and strip-till. Assist in identification of low ROI production areas appropriate for conversion to conservation uses.

- Work individually with farmers on identification of appropriate cost-effective BMPs for use. Refer to appropriate technical resources for design and cost share assistance.

- Work with locally organized farmer-led watershed peer-learning groups where farmers can share experiences and develop projects related to the adoption of appropriate technologies for improving nutrient management practices based on the local situation. Where these groups do not exist look to develop.

- Maintain working knowledge of equipment cost-share opportunities, of EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program); cooperatively owned equipment and retailer capabilities in their watersheds; referring clients to those opportunities and resources.

- Demonstrate through cooperative on-farm visits and educational activities the ability of available agricultural technologies to improve crop production and reduce environmental impacts. These include but are not limited to, aerial imaging, active soil sensing, remote sensing, variable nutrient rates based on production zones, and yield monitoring to create production and profitability zones. Utilization of as applied nutrient verification to document nutrient rates and placement with yield maps to document crop outcomes.

- Demonstrate benefits of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to farmers and assist with implementation of BMPs in low productivity areas of fields to improve water quality and profitability.

- Collect farm production, economic and water quality data in association with installed BMPs to develop ROI information and case studies on conservation practices for production and water quality outcomes.

- Assist farmers with making fertilizer recommendations utilizing tri-state nutrient recommendations. Generate cost return data for applying agronomic rates of manure in-season. Assist with understanding of manure nutrient value and how it can be used to meet nutrient needs and soil health goals.

- Be able to utilize OSU developed tools (FARM, Plots, P index, Fertilizer Recommendation) and commercially available software in support of sharing research findings and educational activities.

- Publish data and project outcomes in eFields and peer reviewed resources to make available BPM evidence more broadly available to farmers, practitioners, and technicians.
Salary Range: $47,484 - $51,000

Requirements:
Earned master's degree OR equivalent education/experience

Note: Includes bachelor’s plus relevant experience

Preference will be given to candidates with a degree in agricultural engineering, agricultural engineering technology, agronomy, soil science, environmental science, hydrology, or other related or other educationally-related area.

The successful candidate will have a strong written and oral communication skills experience working with diverse clientele and organizations. Demonstrated success in working as part of a team and initiating collaborative partnerships is sought. Leadership ability and strong teaching and subject matter expertise in at least one area of agriculture is necessary with the ability to establish or support agribusiness opportunities. Candidates must be willing to work flexible hours with a minimum of supervision.

The successful candidate will be asked to complete, submit and have on file in the OSU Extension Human Resources Office a fingerprint criminal background report and a DMA (Declaration of Material Assistance) form before their start date.

For a complete position description, minimum qualifications, and application instructions go to www.jobsatosu.com and click Search Postings. Under Job Opening Number, type the appropriate county location number and click Search.

Water Quality, Extension Associate Auglaize County – Job Opening # 455787
Water Quality, Extension Associate Fulton County – Job Opening # 455786
Water Quality, Extension Associate Paulding County – Job Opening # 455785
Water Quality, Extension Associate Putnam County – Job Opening # 455783
Water Quality, Extension Associate Sandusky County – Job Opening # 455784
Water Quality, Extension Associate Wood County – Job Opening # 455782

To assure consideration, please apply by December 22, 2019

Note: If you are intending to apply for more than one position, you MUST submit a separate application through www.jobsatosu.com for each one and adjust your cover letter for each application.

The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identity, national origin, disability status, or protected veteran status.

Please direct any questions about the position to Jackie Wilkins, OSU Extension 330-350-0512.