**Tuscola Conservation District**

**Soil Conservation Technician**

**Position Description:** Tuscola Conservation District is seeking a Soil Conservation Technician (SCT) to implement conservation practices and wildlife habitat initiatives that protect and improve natural resources in Tuscola County’s watersheds. The SCT will provide public outreach, technical assistance, and recruitment of landowners and producers. The SCT will work cooperatively with multiple agencies, including, but not limited to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, Pheasant Restoration Initiative, and the Hunting Access Program. The SCT will raise public awareness of problematic phosphorus loading in the watershed and work proactively with agricultural producers to identify on-farm environmental risks that may cause phosphorus to enter into drains and waterways. This work will be performed in the office and in the field.

**Essential personal qualities:** Strong communicator; outgoing personality, ambitious, independent worker and team participant.

**Responsibilities:**

* Contact, interact, and provide natural resources conservation information to the public landowners, and producers.
* Develop and maintain positive working relationships
* Develop conservation plans consisting of practices that will mitigate or reduce environmental risks.
* Actively recruit and assists produces in applying for USDA-NRCS financial assistance to implement practices and follow up with participating producers to ensure practices installations.
* Perform Inventory & Evaluation (I&E), survey, design, and inspect conservation practices.
* Coordinate outreach events which highlight BMPs that reduce sediment and nutrient loading, and various MDARD and MDNR programs to include agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and habitat systems.
* Maintain organized records for reporting.
* Attend and participate in various professional development classes and training events.

**Required Qualifications:**

* Four year Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture or natural resources related field from an accredited college or university.
* Basic knowledge of soil characteristics, agronomy, agricultural, and community land-use operations.
* Good oral and written communication skills
* General office/customer service experience.
* Computer literacy and efficiency with MS Office software
* Current State of Michigan driver’s license and willingness to travel in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout Tuscola County.
* Must pass federal background check

**Preferred Qualifications:**

* Experience implementing USDA-NRCS conservation programs, including EQIP and CREP.
* GIS experience
* Background in wildlife habitat conditions and restorations
* Broad background in and working knowledge of agricultural conservation practices.
* Agricultural experience
* Experience using USDA Tool Kit Pro Tracts software programs

**Funding and Salary:**

Position is grant-funded and full time working a typical Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:30 schedule; occasional evenings and weekends. Beginning salary $17.00 - $19.00 per hour (small benefit stipend included). Benefits include paid off times and paid holidays.

**Application Information:**

Send cover letter, resume, and college transcripts to Jim Kratz, 1075 Cleaver Rd., Caro, MI, 48736 or by email at jim.kratz@mi.nacdnet.net by the close of business October 16, 2015.

**Tuscola Conservation District EEO Statement**: All NRCS & District employment, programs, and services are offered on nondiscriminatory basis with regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability/ handicap, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.