

Discovery Farm Program Associate for Water Quality

The Program Associate will be responsible for implementing field and lab research to better define the impact of agriculture on water quality as part of the Arkansas Discovery Farm team, including soil, water, and stream interactions that govern these relationships and the role of conservation in improving water quality.

The Program Associate will operate in an independent, decision-making role in the planning & execution of Discovery Farms programs. Work objectives are coordinated with Project Leaders, Dr. Shannon Speir (Supervisor) and Dr. Mike Daniels, Director of Discovery Farms, but project implementation & management are primarily the responsibilities of the Program Associate. The Program Associate will be expected to contribute effectively to conceptual framework, program design, result dissemination, educational & extension activities, & the pursuit of extramural financial support.

Responsibilities include:

1. Implementation of research and experimental plans relating to data collection, including soil samples, water samples (both in-stream and at edge of agricultural fields via flumes), and meteorological data, to evaluate the impact of soil health and climate smart agriculture practices on soil and water quality.
2. Operation and maintenance of analytical lab equipment, including a SEAL AutoAnalyzer 500 for nutrient analysis and a Membrane Inlet Mass Spectrometer (MIMS) for dissolved gas analysis, and field sensors (e.g., YSI EXO2, S::CAN Spectrolyser).
3. Data management, summarizing and analyzing data for inclusion into referred journal articles, facts sheets, and other written products.
4. Develop educational products from the results of the Discovery Farm Program, including but not limited to video and social media products, fact sheets, guidebooks, presentations, reports, etc.
5. Coordinate delivery of Discovery Farm activities with Discovery Farm team, including extension and outreach activities

Qualifications:

Minimum Qualifications

A Bachelor's degree in soil science, hydrology/stream ecology, environmental science, agronomy, or a closely related field with three years of relevant professional experience, or a Master's degree in the fields listed above, is required.

Preferred Qualifications

Master's degree in a field listed above; background in crop production, soil and water conservation, water quality monitoring; experience with data collection in agricultural settings, coordination with County Agricultural Agents, Extension Specialists and Researchers, natural resource agencies and farmers is preferred. Experience with GIS and/or programming in R is preferred.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

Excellent written & verbal communication skills. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, data management, & email programs. A demonstrated high level of technical competence in soil and water conservation practices. Ability to implement field research plans and associated data collection. Demonstrated ability to organize and summarize research data and write manuscripts in a technically competent manner. Maintain and operate field sensors and analytical equipment in the lab. Ability to develop & deliver quality presentations. Ability to exercise initiative, make sound judgments, and work without close supervision. Ability to respond to the needs of supervisors, subordinates, & clientele.

Travel: Up to 25%, as needed. Will largely consist of in-state travel by car.

Additional Information:

Applicants for this position are required to upload a Resume, Cover letter, Official *or* Unofficial Transcript, and three letters of recommendation prior to submitting the application. Once an application is submitted, the applicant will not be able to edit the application or upload additional documents. If you have technical issues uploading a document or if you have a need to provide additional documentation after submitting your application, email humanresources@uada.edu.

Salary Information:

\$47,000 - \$52,000, commensurate with experience

Required Documents to Apply:

Cover Letter/Letter of Application, Letters of Recommendation, Resume, Unofficial/Official Transcript(s)

Optional Documents: Examples of scientific writing (e.g., manuscripts, theses, proposals) and/or scientific and extension presentations

Special Instructions to Applicants:**Benefits Include:**

- Health/Vision/Dental Insurance
- Health Savings Account
- 403(b) matching
- Tuition discount
- Generous paid time off policy
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Location: This position is located in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department in Fayetteville, AR.

Recruitment Contact Information:

Dr. Shannon Speir, Assistant Professor of Water Quality, slspeir@uark.edu

All application materials must be uploaded to the University of Arkansas System Career Site <https://uasys.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/UASYS>

Please do not send to listed recruitment contact.

Pre-employment Screening Requirements:

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture may conduct pre-employment background checks on certain positions for applicants being considered for employment. The background checks may include a criminal background check and a sex offender registry check. Required checks are identified in the position listing. A criminal background check or arrest pending adjudication information alone shall not disqualify an applicant in the absences of a relationship to the requirements of the position. Background check information will be used in a consistent, non-discriminatory manner consistent with the state and federal law.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture commits itself to policies of affirmative action and diversity with respect to both employment opportunities and program participation. The Division complies with these policies not merely because of legal requirements, but because we believe that such practices are basic to human dignity. As such, the Division welcomes all applicants to apply without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status. Candidates must have proof of legal

authority to work in the United States on the first day of employment. All applicant information is subject to public disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

About the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture:



The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is a statewide campus, with faculty based on University campuses, at Research and Extension Centers and in every Arkansas county. It consists of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and the Arkansas Co or Award number AWD-101241 with associated grant number GR015117