Seasonal Crop and Soil Science Employment

Location: University of Minnesota
Southern Research & Outreach Center
Waseca, MN 56093

Position Description: This employee or intern will be a part of the soil science research and educational team at the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) at Waseca. The SROC is a 1000-acre research facility focusing on crops, soils, plant pathology, horticultural, dairy, swine, and biosystems engineering (http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu). Soil science research and education is conducted primarily on corn and soybeans and addresses nutrient (fertilizer and manure) management, cropping systems, and nutrient losses in tile drainage water. This information contributes to best management practices for southern Minnesota. Specific aspects include: nitrogen management for corn, agronomic evaluation of phosphorus, potassium and sulfur fertilization, evaluation of new experimental products (enhanced efficiency fertilizers), and cover crop management.

The intern’s main responsibilities will be to assist with field research projects being conducted at Waseca and other on-farm locations in southern Minnesota. Project duties include: participate in the application of fertilizers, manure, and other products; collecting plant, soil, and water samples; measuring and recording plant growth (both physically and with remote sensing tools); general field work and plot maintenance; evaluation of plots; tabulating data; sample preparation for lab analysis; and assisting with educational field events.

Position Qualifications: The person should be mature and willing to take on new challenges. An agricultural (farm) background or coursework in agronomy, soils, horticulture, environmental science, agricultural education, or related field is desired but not required. Experience operating basic farm equipment is also desirable. Must be a self-starter, motivated, and have the ability to follow detailed (written and verbal) instructions.

Employment time: Seasonal: Start in April or May and continue through August or later if available. A 40-hour work week with time off for scheduled absences is desired. The ability to occasionally work overtime (paid) is required.

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