



Ionia Conservation District

431 Swartz Ct. #300, Ionia, MI 48846

Phone: 616-527-2098 ex 3077

www.ioniacd.org

Soil Conservation Technician

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Full time FTE

APPROVED BY THE IONIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD

POSITION OBJECTIVE:

To assist with the Farm Bill workload connect the MAEAP producers to CSP in Ionia County. This is a 2 year grant funded position with the National Association of Conservation Districts with intentions for annual grant renewal.

RELATIONSHIPS:

The Soil Conservation Technician is supervised by and reports to the Ionia Conservation District Manager. The Technician works closely with the local conservation team comprised of: NRCS District Conservationist, Ionia MAEAP Technician, and Ionia District Manager in developing work priorities.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

1. Supports and coordinates efforts between the Farm Bill programs and the MAEAP program to support the producer's conservation needs. Must be proficient with MAEAP and the Farm Bill programs to assist Ionia County agricultural producers.
2. Maintains accurate records and a well-organized filing system for those records.
3. Works closely with and provides staff support to the NRCS District Conservationist.
4. Promotes Farm*A*Syst, Crop*A*Syst, Livestock*A*Syst, other *A*Systs, MAEAP initiatives, Clean Sweep, pesticide container recycling, equipment calibration, and other locally identified stewardship practices through displays, newsletters, group presentations, demonstrations, field events, public service announcements, news releases, radio programs, social media, and other outreach means.

Mission

The primary responsibility of the Ionia Conservation District is to protect our natural resources by: encouraging the use of each acre of land and water within the limits of its capabilities, encouraging the treatment of each acre with the proper needs for protection and improvement, by acquainting people of the district with the importance of soil and water conservation, and providing assistance in Ionia County with conservation concerns.

5. Assists landowners to bridge the programs of EQIP (Environmental Quality Insurance Program), CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program), and MAEAP verification (Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program). Assists with the Clean Sweep program for Ionia and surrounding Counties, and with other activities identified as important by the local conservation team program areas.

OTHER DUTIES:

1. Other duties deemed relevant to the mission of the Ionia Conservation District. The position will be housed in the Ionia Conservation District located at the USDA Service Center in Ionia, Michigan.

2. Develop a weekly work schedule in consultation with the District Manager. Ability to work occasional weekend and evening hours as programs deem necessary.

3. Employee will assist and promote, through public relations, the District's events as requested by the District Directors and District Manager.

4. Assists in the preparation of District Records, Reports, and Annual & Long Range Work Plans.

5. Gives prepared presentations to groups on soil and water conservation topics as requested.

6. Occasional travel for trainings and meetings.

QUALIFICATIONS:

EDUCATION: A minimum of a B.S. Degree in agri-science, livestock, agronomy, crop, soil science, environmental science, horticulture or equivalent.

EXPERIENCE:

1. A minimum of two years of experience in natural resources or agricultural field work.
2. Experience working with dairy, livestock, or crops preferred.
3. Ability to interpret printed materials and government policies for clients.
4. Restricted use applicators certification by the State of Michigan preferred.

ABILITIES:

1. Excellent interpersonal and public communication skills (working with landowners, public speaking, writing)
2. Computer fluency as well as proficiency in the Microsoft Office suite of software and GIS mapping software.
3. Use of a personal vehicle is required (mileage reimbursement provided) Must have a valid Michigan driver's license

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4. Must be able to work efficiently outdoors in varying conditions and terrain; able to lift 50 pounds.
5. Must pass a federal background security check.

COMPENSATION PACKAGE:

Salary range is depending on qualifications. Benefits are negotiable. Employment will require completion of work agreement and annual performance evaluations.

TO APPLY:

Send resume, list of references, and letter of interest to:

melissa.eldridge@mi.nacdnet.net

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

Application must be received by **4 pm September 30, 2020** to be considered.

The Ionia Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and will not discriminate in employment, promotions, or compensation on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, handicap, or veteran status.

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