



**Title: Conservation Agronomist (CA)**

**Reports To: President**

**FLSA Status: Exempt**

**Workplace: Hybrid – West TN RCPP Partnership**

The Conservation Agronomist (CA) is responsible for leading a program across the entire West Tennessee region. They will be teaching new technologies and helping with adoption of more sustainable practices on West Tennessee farms and ranches. To do so, they work closely with private landowners, federal, state, and local governments. The CA also frequently will meet with farmers to advise them on the best practices for their land and how to increase their productivity while coordinating with NRCS & The RCPP team for greater soil health and sustainability practices.

The CA will work with Agricenter International (AI) to engage landowners and farmers in West Tennessee. The purpose of this role is to provide conservation and agronomic technical assistance to local farmers and landowners. This technical assistance will result in increased farmer participation and engagement in programs and projects that improve production, profitability, and natural resource conservation outcomes. This work aligns with a grant received from West TN RCPP Partnership.

This AI staff position will work closely with UT/TSU extension, community organizations, NRCS and other state & federal partners. The person in this role will provide conservation and agronomy expertise to farmer and area landowners. An important aspect of this role will be to build relationships with agronomy and precision staff, local watershed projects, soil and water conservation district staff, TDA and other conservation partners.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Research or study conservation management practices with NRCS practice code to provide sustained production advice.
2. Develop technical standards and specifications used to manage, protect and improve the natural resources of conservation and sustainable agriculture.
3. Maintain soil stability and vegetation for non-grazing uses, such as wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation.
4. Oversee and help plan individual practices on working lands in West Tennessee.
5. Study forage plants and their growth requirements to determine varieties best suited to a particular area.
6. Utilize equipment for monitoring conservation.

7. Develop new and improved instruments and techniques for activities such as reseeded of buffer strips, pollinator plots, and cover crops.
8. Measure and assess vegetation resources for biological assessment companies, environmental impact statements, and conservation monitoring programs.
9. Offer advice regarding nutrient and water management.
10. Serve as a conservation and agronomy technical specialist.
11. Promote management practices and systems to address natural resource concerns, farmer/landowner conservation, production and productivity goals, and grant project goals.
12. Monitor agronomic and conservation practice performance.
13. Connect farmers and landowners with financial assistance and secure necessary technical design standards for practice application.
14. Build relationships and coordinate projects with project sponsors and a variety of audiences in the ag retail territory including farmers, landowners, USDA Service Center personnel, local partners, and other commodity organizations.
15. Participate in other relevant meetings, trainings, events, and field days.
16. Prepare work plans, budgets, quarterly and annual reports, and support grant development and implementation.
17. Coordinate with TDA and other departments and staff including communications and outreach, producer services and finance and accounting.

#### **Qualifications:**

1. A minimum of bachelor's degree in natural resources, crop science, soil science, biology or a related field, such as horticulture, plant physiology or environmental science is required. Master's of Science degree helpful in plant genetics, biochemistry, physiology and crop management.
2. Minimum 3 years experience in relevant field research.
3. Computer skills including Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.
4. Ability and willingness to work outside.
5. Professional communication skills; must be capable of dealing with professional cooperators, field day participants, and educational visitors.
6. Great human relations skills and an energetic, positive attitude.
7. Ability to take initiative, follow through, and use sound judgment in decision making and problem solving.
8. Ability to travel, occasionally outside the local area and overnight.
9. Ability to work in a team environment with a positive manner of communication in all levels of the organization, as well as county organizations and other outside companies.
10. Ability to work weekends and special functions as required.
11. Understanding of regional agricultural practices.
12. Ability, desire, and passion to carry out the mission of Agricenter International.

**Skill Sets Desired:**

1. Having a practical understanding and application of agronomy and environmental science
2. Prioritizing and organizing work loads
3. Establishing professional relationships
4. Providing a high level of customer service
5. Evaluating and implementing new ideas
6. Navigating multiple types of organizations
7. Acting as a champion for change
8. Communicating effectively (written and oral)

**Agricenter International is a non-profit 501(c)3 dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of agriculture. It is an education, agribusiness, research, and agricultural hub of the Mid-South, with a \$524 million annual economic impact on the region. We host over 1.5 million visitors and educate more than 13,000 students each year.**

**Agricenter International is an equal employment opportunity employer and does not discriminate against employees or job applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected status.**

Please submit resumes to [careers@agricenter.org](mailto:careers@agricenter.org)