



Employee Job Description

Department: Conservation District (MCCD)

Position Title: Agricultural Resource Conservationist I

Pay Classification: P&A 04 (Entry \$19.51/hr. - \$27.91/hr.)

Special Note: With 1-3 years of experience in the position, Act 38 Nutrient Management Specialist Certification (training provided as part of the job), and Public Pesticide Applicator Certification (training provided as part of the job) the positions will be reviewed for a pay rate increase to P&A 06 (\$23.91 – \$33.81 per hr.)

Reports To: Conservation District Manager

Date of Job Description Creation/Update: 4/4/2025

Overall Descriptions of the Position:

The Agricultural Resource Conservationist will provide direct technical assistance and services to owners and operators of Mercer County Farms, production agriculture cooperators and other landowners to help solve natural resource concerns in areas of soil conservation and manure and nutrient management. Work includes providing technical assistance to production agriculture cooperators and other landowners for the PA Nutrient Management Program (Act 38), PA Manure Management Program (PA Chapter 91) and soil conservation planning and implementation. This position will also assist with other district programs as required.

Position Requirements:

- A bachelor's degree in Agronomy, Agriculture, Natural Sciences, Environmental Science, or related field is preferred. An associate degree in Agronomy with extensive agricultural experience may qualify at the discretion of the County and MCCD Board of Directors.
- Individual must have a strong agricultural background with a good working knowledge of crops, soils, animal husbandry, hydrology, land use and geography.
- One to three years of experience strongly preferred.
- Ability to pass and maintain certification in accordance with the Nutrient Management Act.
- Ability to interpret rules, regulations, manuals, policies and procedures to implement the Nutrient and Manure Management Programs and Chapter 102 relating to Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Plans (Ag E&S Plans).
- Ability to obtain and maintain state public sector Act 38 certification.

- Ability to do field work and negotiate uneven and rough terrain, including inclement weather where wet and slippery surfaces are encountered.
- Valid Pennsylvania Driver's license and safely operate motor vehicle while carrying out assigned duties.
- Ability to learn and become proficient with PA One Stop computer program.
- Ability to attend periodic overnight trainings offered by cooperating agencies.
- Must be skilled in numerical reasoning and physical sciences.
- Must possess effective oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work with county residents, government agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector to accomplish common goals.
- Ability to read and interpret technical literature, engineering plans and tables.
- Ability to learn and use computer programs such as ArcView GIS, MS Outlook, Word and Excel and others to accomplish conservation planning, tracking, record keeping and reporting tasks.
- Knowledge of soils and the use of soils maps.

Position Duties:

General Duties

- Work with other agricultural agencies and organizations to promote natural resource and soil conservation education, planning and implementation.
- Coordinate with partner agencies and organizations such as Penn State Cooperative Extension, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, No-till Alliance, PA Farm Bureau, DCNR Forestry, Farmland Preservation, PA Department of Environmental Protection and local sportsman's associations.
- Seek grants and alternative funding sources to increase agricultural conservation outreach and implementation.
- All other duties as assigned.

Nutrient & Manure Management Duties and Responsibilities

- Encourage voluntary compliance with PA's Nutrient Management regulations, Act 38 and PA Chapter 91.
- Educate and promote the agronomic and environmental benefits of proper nutrient management by developing and providing education and outreach programs.
- Assist farm operators and Nutrient Management Specialists with implementing the provisions of the Nutrient Management Act and PA's Manure Management Program.
- Review and assist with approval/disapproval of submitted nutrient management plans, plan amendments, transfers and manure storage setback waivers, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the NMA regulations and the Administrative Manual.
- Perform Annual Status Reviews of voluntary and concentrated animal operations with approved Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) to assess plan implementation.
- Provide the SCC and DEP with quarterly reports detailing required program activities outlined in the Administrative Manual and Delegation Agreement.
- Maintain files on NMPs and plan amendments submitted for review and approval, including plan implementation information submitted by operators with approved plans as outlined in program requirements.

Soil Conservation Duties and Responsibilities

- Encourage voluntary compliance with PA's Chapter 102 regulations requiring all farms to have and implement an Ag E&S Plan or Conservation Plan.

- Assist with development of Ag E&S Plans for farm operations, as requested or needed.
- Assist farm operations with assessment of natural resource problems and assist with development of Best Management Practice (BMP) designs.
- Assist agricultural producers and landowners to obtain required permits and other project approvals required for implementation of BMPs.
- Provide information on financial resources (grants, loans and cost share) available to assist producers and landowners in the installation of conservation BMPs.
- Ability to assist District Forester and other government agencies with identification and control of invasive plants and insect pests.
- Ability to assist farm operators and landowners with invasive plant and insect pest identification and control methods.
- Knowledge of wetlands and Chapter 93 regulations in order to assist farm operators, landowners, and government agencies to determine potential impacts and disturbances.
- Ability to assist landowners and government agencies in the identification of warm season grasses and invasive plant species.
- Ability to assist farm operators, landowners, and government agencies in riparian zone and upland plantings.
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To Apply:

Please complete the standard County of Mercer Application and send a letter of interest, salary history, and your resume to the following:

Mercer County HR Department
125 S Diamond Street
Suite 17
Mercer, PA 16137

** County of Mercer Standard Applications can be printed from the above link or can be obtained by stopping in the Human Resources office located on the basement level of the Courthouse.

Deadline to Apply: May 9, 2025