



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Wisconsin Farm Sustainability Rewards Project Coordinator

Closing Date – December 4th, 2023

About Wisconsin's Green Fire

Wisconsin's Green Fire, Voices for Conservation (WGF) is a non-partisan 501(c)3 organization providing science-based information and analysis that addresses Wisconsin's greatest conservation challenges. WGF helps policy makers, agencies, and concerned citizens understand and address complex issues, including climate change, biodiversity, clean water, and advancing opportunities for young people in conservation.

We are dedicated to the principle that all people and groups have the right to clean water, clean air, healthy natural ecosystems, outdoor recreation, and land managed sustainably to produce economic benefit to everyone. We are dedicated to the principle that a sound environment and economy go hand in hand. We are dedicated to environmental justice.

About the Farm Sustainability Rewards Project

The Farm Sustainability Rewards Project (FSR) is a two-year project led by WGF in partnership with Clean Wisconsin to assess feasibility of and design a voluntary model for farm conservation that rewards farmers who meet increasingly robust tiers of environmental performance while improving their whole-farm and farm product sustainability. The Farm Sustainability Rewards project is supported with funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Farm Sustainability Rewards Project will design a pilot project, with stakeholder input, aimed at rewarding farms that meet clear farm-wide sustainability benchmarks on a voluntary basis – including quantified benchmarks for soil erosion, nutrient loss and GHG emissions. Unlike one-time cost-share programs that focus on isolated practices, this project will develop the structure to offer qualifying producers annual per-acre rewards for continuing, farm-wide achievement. The project will use field-tested models to estimate a farm's average "footprint per acre," based on relevant farm characteristics and practices. Farms that do better can earn higher rewards. Benchmarks are designed to achieve key environmental goals.

www.wigreenfire.org

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About the Position

The Project Coordinator will play a key role guiding, coordinating, and implementing the Farm Sustainability Rewards Project. This is a two-year full-time position which will report to the FSR Project Director and will interface closely with two FSR Project Co-executives. Although not guaranteed, extension of employment beyond two years is possible and WGF intends for this project to evolve into other related project opportunities.

Position Responsibilities

- Provides technical expertise in agricultural conservation science.
- Collects and analyzes research data, carbon models, and documents and summarizes results to support project outcomes.
- Conducts literature reviews, prepares reports and materials, and disseminates information to appropriate entities.
- Interviews scientists and practitioners and conducts state of practice surveys with individuals and groups on agricultural conservation issues including nutrient application models, field monitoring methods, administration of existing farm conservation programs, and appropriate environmental standards or advisory levels.
- Conducts statistical analysis on available data and generates data visualizations for a variety of audiences including farmers, conservationists, and scientists.
- Leads the project efforts to determine appropriate environmental performance metrics for project tiers and funding levels for achieving tiers of performance.
- Sets agendas, facilitates, and leads discussion for meetings of an internal steering committee and an external stakeholder group.
- Serves as lead contributor and editor of project reports and other project deliverables.
- Helps coordinate the work of project contractors and project partners.
- Facilitates conversations among and across disciplines and with agricultural stakeholders and other interest groups to advance understanding of the program and secure consensus around strategies.
- Coordinates with WGF administrative staff to ensure record keeping for project expenses, track completion of deliverables, and prepare progress reports.
- Coordinates FSR engagement at public presentations and listening sessions.
- Develops project proposals for related future projects.

Qualifications

- ✓ A minimum B.S. degree in Agronomy, Soil Science, or Environmental Sciences, or other closely related fields with an agricultural emphasis.
- ✓ Candidates with advanced degrees (M.S., PhD, or Post Doctoral standing), and/or significant experience with agricultural conservation science will be preferred.
- ✓ Demonstrated capability to perform the listed job responsibilities, with previous experience in conducting similar work strongly preferred.
- ✓ Computer literacy, including statistical analysis tools and spatial analysis tools adequate to analyze data and develop presentations, visuals, and supporting materials.
- ✓ Demonstrated experience in management of complex projects and in building consensus with team members and external stakeholders on complex issues.
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively in both written and oral communications with a wide variety of technical and non-technical audiences.
- ✓ A motivated self-starter capable of working and making key decisions independently, and able to collaborate and consult effectively with a team.

COMPENSATION

This is a full-time (100% FTE) salaried position with funding available through October 2025. **The starting salary range will be \$55,000 - \$70,000, commensurate with experience and education.** Consideration may be given to qualified candidates desiring a minimum 75% appointment or who are seeking flexible schedules.

WGF offers a benefits package including paid holidays, paid time off, a home office stipend, and a health insurance stipend.

Candidates must have access to a home office or other suitable Wisconsin-based workspace. This position will require occasional paid travel in Wisconsin, including some overnights, and candidates must have a valid driver's license and access to a personal vehicle suitable for reimbursable statewide travel.



OUR EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENT

Wisconsin's Green Fire is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We offer competitive compensation, flexible work policies, and a collaborative work environment. We are committed to supporting and inspiring professional achievement and personal development.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please complete and submit the following documents electronically to info@wgreenfire.org using the subject line **WGF Agricultural Project Coordinator Application**. Only electronically submitted application materials will be considered.

Please direct questions on the project to FSR Project Co-directors Jimmy VandenBrook (jimmyvb52@gmail.com) and Sara Walling (swalling@cleanwisconsin.org).

- 1) A cover letter explaining your interest and suitability for this position.
- 2) A current resume that includes references and their contact information.
- 3) A recent sample of any work you have recently produced that reflects your capabilities for this position.

The Application Deadline is 12:00 PM Monday, December 4th, 2023.