

Position Announcement

District Soil and Water Conservation Technician

Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

Since 1944, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been working directly with farmers and landowners to conserve and promote healthy soils, water, and wildlife. As a District Technician, you will support the Warren SWCD commissioners to continue this mission by working in a joint capacity with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other local partners. This position is under the supervision of the SWCD commissioners, with day-to-day activities coordinated by the NRCS District Conservationist.

JOB DESCRIPTION & DUTIES

Inform and support Warren County SWCD commissioners in implementing conservation practices in Warren County

- Assist in cost-share conservation projects such as Water Quality Initiative (WQI), Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).
- Organize conservation education and outreach events
- Develop and work on joint projects with partner organizations to further conservation efforts in Warren County, such as Lake Colchester Watershed project
- Assist Conservation Assistant with SWCD fundraising activities such as tree sales, tree shelter sales, and fish sales

Develop conservation plans by scheduling practices that protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources

- Provide technical advice to landowners on conservation practice options to address natural resource concerns
- Explain different conservation programs and financial options available to landowners
- Collect data using tools and equipment available through the field office to support conservation planners

With supervision, complete technical design and layout of conservation practices in accordance with the state and/or NRCS standards and specifications

- Assist team members with scheduling field visits with the landowner and contractor to conduct on-site inspections and GPS surveys
- Complete layout, design, cost-estimates for conservation practice installation, and checkout of conservation practices such as prairie projects, pasture/livestock projects, forestry practices, and crop system practices using survey equipment and computer programs
- Oversee contractor construction and inspects completed practices for compliance with standards and specifications
- Review conservation and construction plans with landowners, staff, and contractors

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Knowledge of native and introduced plant species in Iowa
- Understanding of state and federal conservation programs available to landowners
- Strong relationship-building skills to develop and maintain positive working relationships with clients and co-workers

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Complete a federal background investigation to become an affiliate employee of USDA-NRCS
- Attend required state and federal meetings and trainings necessary to retain competency for the position
- Deliver programs and services without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, or disability

COMPENSATION: \$15-\$20 per hour, commensurate with experience

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references to:

Warren County SWCD, Attn: Kristine Houseman, 909 E. 2nd Ave. Ste B., Indianola, IA 50125 : Phone # (515) 961-5264 Ext. 3

or email: Kristine.Houseman@ia.nacdnet.net

Applications must be postmarked by FRIDAY, February 24, 2023, for consideration!