

Position: Michigan Soil Health Partnership Research Manager – Full-time position

The Michigan Soil Health Research Manager will provide technical assistance and research collaboration for the Soil Health Partnership and Corn Marketing Program of Michigan. This position manages and maintains knowledge to connect and leverage relationships/networks, research and communication tools, and information to increase effectiveness and efficiency across relevant agricultural and non-agricultural networks. The Michigan Soil Health Research Manager will report to the SHP Lead Scientist in planning and delivering key project objectives for 75 percent of the role and report to the Michigan Corn State Executive for 25 percent of the role. This unique role weds local application in the Michigan geography with the national focus and structure of Soil Health Partnership.

Positional Competencies

- Networks and coordinates with local stakeholders to advance soil health collaborations
- Strengthens relationships with academic institutions, extension organizations, and industry stakeholders
- Manages key relationships with farmers in the Soil Health Partnership network, agronomists and collaborators
- Manages logistics for Soil Health Partnership field-based applied research programs
- Provides technical advice for agricultural systems that incorporate practices such as cover crops, conservation tillage and adaptive nutrient management
- Plans and manages logistical details for Soil Health Partnership and Michigan Corn events, including leading the coordination of the tri-commodity “Great Lakes Crop Summit”. Coordination to include: securing speakers and developing content, communication of travel arrangements, layout of breakouts, working with corn staff, day-of needs, and other conference items as needed.
- Supports local efforts in Michigan as well as national efforts
- Identifies and prioritizes research activities
- Develops protocols and guidelines for on-farm research activities
- Develops RFPs (Requests for proposals) for research activities
- Strengthens communications with producers and industry stakeholders

Qualifications:

- Education and/or experience equivalent to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy, Soil Science, Plant Pathology, Horticulture, Economics or Statistics or related discipline with a minimum of 4 years of work experience in an agronomic related field OR a Master of Science in Agronomy, Soil Science, Plant Pathology, Horticulture or related discipline may be substituted for years of work experience requirement.
- Experience in precision agricultural data management and software programs
- Working experience in relationship management, recommendations, on-farm experimentation and interpretation of results
- Experience planning and implementing customer-focused farmer and agronomist events
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Willingness to travel extensively within the assigned territory, with occasional national travel.

Desired Skills/Experience:

- Masters degree (or higher) in relevant discipline (Agronomy, Soil Health, Plant ·
- Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) certification
- Experience in making recommendations for optimized agricultural systems
- Experience in precision agricultural data management and software programs
- Demonstrated ability to plan and manage research collaborations
- Facility with statistical methods and tool kits

Time Requirements:

- This position is full-time with travel required within assigned territory and occasional national travel.

PROGRAM CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Customer support and focus- Responsive to needs of members and prospects. Takes personal responsibility for service delivered. Is courteous and responsive to members. Sets realistic expectations with members regarding requests for additional services.
- Team support - Is seen as a collaborator and one who can contribute in a team setting. Encourages all members to participate, and keeps the team focused on goals and objectives. Demonstrates a willingness to work with all those involved in the task at hand.
- Initiative - Acts independently while working to achieve performance objectives. Takes action to improve or remedy situations that may be problematic by offering solutions, insights, and suggestions to those involved.
- Adaptability - Adapts to change, is open to new ideas, takes on new responsibilities, handles pressure, and adjusts plans to meet changing needs.
- Results Focus - Can be counted on to meet or exceed goals; pushes self and others for results; is a conscientious worker who can be relied upon to handle unforeseen obstacles.
- Judgment - Uses good problem solving and analytical skills in making decisions. Thinks through the impact of decisions and actions on other people and programs.
- Coordination- independently cross-checks data, projects, and communications across geography and multi-level collaborations with partnering organizations.

LOCATION: The position is based in Michigan with the option to have an office at the CPM office in DeWitt, MI.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to soilhealth@ncga.com by March 22nd, 2019.

ABOUT NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION – SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (SHP)

The Soil Health Partnership brings together diverse partner organizations including commodity groups, federal agencies, universities and environmental groups to work toward the common goal of improving soil health. The SHP is identifying, testing and measuring farm management practices that improve soil health and benefit farmers. We believe the results of this farmer-led project will provide a platform for sharing peer-to-peer information and lend resources to benefit agricultural sustainability and profitability. An initiative of the National Corn Growers Association, we provide the spark for greater understanding and implementation of agricultural best practices to protect resources for future generations.

ABOUT Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CPM)

The purpose of the CPM is to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn growers by providing for the growth and expansion of the corn industry in Michigan through foreign and domestic market development, promotion, and research that will stimulate the demand for corn. This shall be accomplished through this program by increasing demand and utilization, disseminating market information, discovering new and more efficient marketing and production methods, and by enhancing markets for Michigan corn.