

Organization: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Job Title: Environmental Field Assistant – Co-op Student

Start Date: May 1, 2012

Job Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Job Description:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) will be leading a field experiment in 2012 to gather data to estimate soil moisture using remote sensing instruments. A team of international experts will gather at a site south of Winnipeg to collect soil moisture and vegetation measurements during the 2012 growing season. NASA will be flying two aircraft over the 6 week campaign, and AAFC will program a number of satellites. The team also includes researchers from Canadian and U.S. universities, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Working with this team of scientists, the candidate will collect plant and soil samples to support this research experiment. The candidate will have an opportunity to gain experience working with environmental data, acquire skills in using field instruments and obtain experience in organizing large volumes of data.

Job Responsibilities will include:

- Assisting with collection of plants and separating plants into stem and leaf parts
- Assisting research team with collection of soil moisture measurements
- Recording measurements on a data sheets
- Organizing and labelling plant sample bags
- Weighing and recording sample weights in a laboratory
- Entering data into spreadsheets on a computer
- Assisting the research team in managing electronic data

Work Environment:

Field data are collected outdoors, so employees will need to be comfortable working outside in variable weather conditions. To collect the data, employees will have to walk through agricultural fields in sometimes muddy conditions and through dense crop canopies. Some work will be conducted in an office environment and familiarity with office software is an asset. Irregular work hours may be required. Students may need to work more than 7.5 hours per day, and may be required to work more than 5 consecutive field days including weekends and holidays. All additional hours will be compensated with time off during less busy periods. The working language will be English.

The student will be required to drive and thus a valid driver's license is a requirement.

Deadline for applications: March 15, 2012, or before.

Apply to:

Heather McNairn heather.mcnairn@agr.gc.ca / tel: (613) 759-1815 or

Grant Wiseman Grant.Wiseman@agr.gc.ca / tel: (204) 984-4080