

THE SOILED PROFILE



NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA “bringing you the latest dirt”



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

For general inquiries or if you have material to include in the newsletter:

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Past issues of the Soiled Profile are now on our
webpage: [umanitoba.ca/afs/soil science/](http://umanitoba.ca/afs/soil%20science/)

4 March 2016

Upcoming:

Wednesday, March 9, 12:30 p.m., Room 346 Ellis Building – Soil Science seminar series. Dr. Francis Zvomuya, Department of Soil Science. Title: “My Career: The Itinerary and Unplanned Outcomes”.

Wednesday, March 23, 12:30 p.m., Room 346 Ellis Building – Soil Science seminar series. Mr. Mitchell Timmerman, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Title: TBA.

Department Staff Away:

Bo Pan	Mar 7-14, 21-24, 28 (vacation)
Paul Bullock	Apr 11 - 24 (vacation)

Tim Stem will be away most Fridays for the next few weeks.

Please note: For the week of March 7, **Jennifer will be working Mar 7-9 (Mon-Wed) and Terri will be working Mar 9-11 (Wed-Fri) for one week only.**

News:

Congratulations to Jolene Rutter.

Jolene successfully defended her M.Sc. last Friday, February 26. Well done!

We welcome Dr. Musarrat Jahan who will spend the next 6 months working with Annemieke Farenhorst’s group. Musarrat obtained her Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Manitoba with Dr. Rick Holley as her supervisor. Her office is Room 388 Ellis Building.



Congratulations Brian and Gabi.



Brian Miller and Gabrielle Leo were married on Saturday, February 20. Congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds!

Paper of the week:

Hanis, K.L., B.D. Amiro, M. Tenuta, T. Papakyriakou and K.A. Swystun. 2015. Carbon exchange over four growing seasons for a subarctic sedge fen in northern Manitoba, Canada. *Arctic Science* 1:27-44.

Opportunities:

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships will be offered to recognize and reward the excellence of international graduate students pursuing Master's or Ph.D. degrees at the University of Manitoba. The scholarships will be offered to students who:

- (1) are international students (i.e. those in Canada on study permits) continuing full-time study in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba in either:
 - the second year of a two-year* Master's program,
 - the second year of a two-year* Ph.D. program,
 - the second or third year of a three-year* Ph.D. program, or
 - in the first year of a Ph.D. program after completing a Master's degree at the University of Manitoba;
- (2) are paying the international student tuition fee;
- (3) have achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 over the equivalent of the last two completed years of study;
- (4) show great promise as researchers and as graduate students;
- (5) are not recipients of external funding that pays for their tuition.

Deadline: **April 1**. More information:

<http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/gradawards/index.asp?WCI=SearchForm&WCE=showAlphabet&letter=I>

Western Grains Research Foundation Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship

The Western Grains Research Foundation provides a contribution of \$100,000 every three years, to offer renewable graduate scholarships for students at the University of Manitoba. The purpose of the scholarships is to support and encourage top students to further their studies in crop research, to generate improved technology and productivity for western crop producers. Every three years, there will be either two scholarships with a minimum value of \$25,000 each for Master's students, or one scholarship with a minimum value of \$33,000 for a Doctoral student. The scholarships will be offered to graduate students who:

- (1) are enrolled full-time in the Faculty of Graduate Studies in the first year of a Master's or Doctoral program delivered by the Department of Plant Science or the Department of Soil Science;
- (2) have achieved a minimum degree grade point average of 3.5 (or equivalent) based on the last 60 credit hours of study (or equivalent);
- (3) have proposed to undertake thesis research in the area of crop research (major field crops including grains and oilseeds).

Preference will be given to candidates who hold an undergraduate degree from a Canadian university. Candidates will be required to submit an application that will consist of: (a) a description of their proposed research project (maximum 500 words), (b) a current curriculum vitae, (c) a current academic transcript(s), and (d) two academic letters of reference from professors at a post-secondary institution.

The Scholarship is renewable for either one or two years for Master's and Doctoral students, respectively, provided that the recipient:

- (1) continues to be registered full-time in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, in a Master's or Doctoral program delivered by the Department of Plant Science or the Department of Soil Science;
- (2) has maintained a minimum degree grade point average of 3.5 (or equivalent) based on the last 60 credit hours of study (or equivalent);
- (3) has submitted a satisfactory progress report to his or her supervisory committee.

In the event that a recipient does not qualify for renewal of the award, the selection committee may offer the scholarship to a new recipient who meets the selection criteria. Normally, the Western Grains Research Foundation Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship may not be held with any other award valued at \$10,000 or greater, including University awards and external awards funded by provincial or federal government programs.

Application Deadline: **March 31, 2016 @ 11:59 p.m.** Submit your application to Regan Sarmatiuk, Student Awards Coordinator, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Room 248 Agriculture Building. To access the application form: <https://agawards.agric.umanitoba.ca/index.php/home/award/view/179>.

Environmental Monitoring Service Technician – Summer Student Positions, Weather Innovations, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta

This is a field based technician role, serving Agriculture & Environmental Projects, including a national citizenship science volunteer network, with a combination of outdoor & indoor tasks. Training will be provided.

Job Type: Contract Full Time

Number of Positions: Total 4. (1 in each Province)

Closing date: **March 10, 2016**

Manitoba Start Date: Immediately

Other Provinces Start Date: approximately May 9, 2016 – Federal Summer Student Program (These positions must terminate August 26, 2016)

Eligibility to be able to be part of the Federal Summer Student Program for which these roles will be funded requires the summer student to be:

- Registered as a full-time student in the previous academic year & intend to return to school on a full-time basis in the next academic year, usually fall term 2016 (normally starting Aug/Sep 2016)
- Between 15 & 30 years of age at the start of the employment
- A Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration & Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial/territorial legislation & regulations
- All summer students will be required to complete their Health & Safety & other on-line mandatory training on or before their first day of employment

Key Accountabilities:

- Installation, repair & maintenance of weather monitoring equipment including soil moisture probes
- Repair, diagnostic testing & calibration of sensors, cameras & related environmental field equipment
- Collection field collected datasets for rain, soil moisture & water balance data
- Field & scouting crops for work with environmental & agricultural research trials
- Reviewing reports & decision support tools to gain knowledge of WIN projects & opportunities
- Assist in interpretation, analysis & report writing & client support
- Interaction of office analytical requirements working with field collected datasets
- Combination of outdoor & indoor summer tasks, which may also include presentations & trade events
- Other tasks as directed by the WIN team

Skills & Qualifications:

- Must have
 - Proficiency in MS Office (word & excel) & internet
 - Full G License, as traveling is expected (for which a vehicle will be provided)
- Ideal candidate would also be able to demonstrate
 - Analytical & problem solving ability
 - Quick adaptability, attention to details, able to meet tight deadlines
 - Ability to work & prioritize multiple tasks independently (think on own or know when to ask)
 - Attention to details
 - Excellent organizational skills & good time management
 - Be a team player
 - Agriculture knowledge & experience
- All fields of studies listed below are of interest in these positions, having an element of theory & practical application; we seek to encourage Summer Students from:
 - Agronomy – Impact of the weather on Crops

- Agricultural – Knowledge of farming best practices & decision tools in modern day farming, including APPs or other web based tools
- Agricultural sciences - relationship between agriculture, soil & plant sciences, understanding of disease or pest impacts
- Climatology – Use of comparison of current situations to normal, deviation analysis
- Meteorology – Use of weather related maps, forecasts, planning & analysis
- Hydrology – Utilization of soil moisture & water balance calculations for the adequate growth of crops
- Environmental Sciences /Studies – impacts, threats & opportunities

How to Apply: Please email your resume & cover letter stating your interest in this summer student experience and how this is going to benefit you in your current studies. Send both to hremail@weatherinnovations.com. Applications must be received by March 10, 2016.

Stewards of Irreplaceable Land (SOIL) Apprenticeship Program

SOIL is an accessible framework for getting folks that think they may be interested in farming to try it out for a season through hands-on learning. It's also a great format for experienced farms to share their knowledge and bring new people into the industry. This is a non profit program, that links farmers with young folks wanting to learn and work on an organic farm using sustainable practices. The host farms that list with SOIL, are farms which emphasize organic techniques with little or no dependence on pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides. Beyond that they represent a wide variety of focus and practices; from market garden businesses, biodynamic farms, animal husbandry operations of all sizes, orchards, seed companies to name a few.

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over 18 years old who is healthy, self-motivated and eager to learn. A time commitment of eight weeks is usually required, but a full-season commitment is usually preferred. Typically, apprenticeships take place between May and September, although many farms need help all year round. SOIL provides the listing service for host farm opportunities and acts as an initial liaison between the farmer and prospective apprentices. SOIL endeavours to match the apprentice with the farm according to the information given by both parties. Farms must make a commitment to provide a teaching component to the apprenticeship. They are encouraged to provide a monthly stipend and/or wage to the apprentice. It is the responsibility of both parties to come to a working agreement.

To participate, complete and submit the apprentice application and \$30 application fee. SOIL will email you the applications filled in by the farms you are interested in, along with some guidelines for making a contract with the farms. We will also send your application to the farmers. Then it is up to you to contact the farms that most interest you to discuss a possible placement!

More information can be found at www.soilapprenticeships.com or contact Keeley Nixon or SOIL Coordinator Jordan Marr at soilapprenticeships@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Events:

Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, Annual General Meeting and Professional Development Day, April 14, Portage la Prairie, MB

The Manitoba Institute of Agrologists 66th AGM will be held at the PCU Centre (Portage Regional Recreation Authority), 245 Royal Road South Portage la Prairie, MB on Thursday, April 14, 2016 starting at 1:00 p.m. (CST).

Election of Provincial Council members will be part of the AGM. Member nominees for election are (alphabetical order by last name followed by employer):

- Jill Caldwell, P.Ag., Good Lands Environmental Inc.
- Prabal Ghosh, P.Ag., MAFRD
- Mark Howe, P.Ag., Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP
- Lynne Pinder, P.Ag., Business Owner - Animal Nutritionist
- Dennis Robles, P.Ag., Swine Health Professionals
- Yilan Zhang, P.Ag., Monsanto Canada Inc.