



# Soil Conservationist

The **Grant County's Conservation, Sanitation, and Zoning Department** is recruiting for a Soil Conservationist. This position will implement soil and water conservation programs and policies, including but not limited to the Farmland Preservation Program, Agricultural Enterprise Areas, Nutrient Management Planning and NR151. They will provide planning, technical assistance and outreach related to conservation practices, with priorities guided by the County's Land & Water Resource Management Plan. This position is also responsible to assist the active Farmer Led Watershed Councils of the County.

## **Minimum Qualifications**

### Education:

1. Graduation from high school or high school equivalency
2. Associate degree in Soil Science, Agronomy, Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation or closely related field
3. Bachelor's degree preferred

### Experience:

1. Two years of experience in land conservation principles & practices including environmental protection, and agricultural practices
2. Experience or training in personal computer use with word processing, spreadsheet, SNAP Plus, RUSLE 2, engineering CAD software and Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)

### Other:

1. Possession of a valid driver's license
2. Certification in one of the following areas: Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) certification from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA); Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) certification from the ASA; Certified Professional Crop Scientist (CPCSc) certification from the ASA; Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) certification from the ASA; or Crop Certification through the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) preferred.

Note: Equivalent combinations of job-related education and experience may be considered

**How to Apply:** A [Grant County application for employment](#) and [job description](#) may be obtained at [www.co.grant.wi.gov](http://www.co.grant.wi.gov) or by contacting the Grant County Personnel Department (608)723-2540. Letter of interest, resume, and Grant County Application are required and will be accepted at the following location.

## GRANT COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

**TITLE:** Soil Conservationist

**DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY:** Conservation, Sanitation, and Zoning Department

**IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR:** Administrator of Conservation, Sanitation, and Zoning Department

**PAY RANGE:** H

**FLSA:** Exempt - Professional

### NATURE OF WORK

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### Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

1. Knowledge of agriculture-related soil and water conservation principles, practices, and planning.
2. Knowledge of farming operations and management.
3. Solid understanding of relationships between land management, soil health, ground and surface water quality, and geology.

4. Training in GIS and GPS, including using air photos, topo maps, and soil maps.
5. Ability to clearly and professionally communicate conservation concepts, program and policy requirements, and conservation standards in person and in writing.
6. Ability to build and maintain positive working relationships with farm operators, landowners, co-workers, and partners.
7. Strong organizational and data management skills.
8. Ability to work independently and prioritize multiple tasks and deadlines.
9. Ability to complete basic mathematical calculations.
10. Proficiency using computers, spreadsheets, and Microsoft Office software.
11. Work toward achieving Ecological Sciences Job Authority from NRCS on applicable conservation practices.

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

### Under general direction

1. Administration of the Farmland Preservation Program, including on-farm status reviews, technical assistance, compliance tracking and enforcement. Sends out mailings and maintains spreadsheets and paper files. Assists with the updates of the Farmland Preservation Plan including development and administration of Agricultural Enterprise Areas.
2. Manages the Nutrient Management Plan Program; works with local and state agronomy personnel to conduct farmer led Nutrient Management Training; reviews nutrient management plans prepared by crop consultants for compliance with standards and specifications; identifies restricted spreading areas and provides copies of maps, soils data and forms needed by farmers for their plans; provides follow up with farmers regarding annual update of their plans.
3. Works closely with NRCS and FSA on the contracting and administration of the Conservation Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Conducts field assessments, mapping, contracting and status reviews as needed.
4. Implementation of NR-151 Agricultural Runoff Management Standards and Prohibitions. Conduct inventory of livestock operations and cropland fields throughout the county. Identify and enforce implementation of conservation Best Management Practices to protect the county natural resources. Conduct periodic evaluation to verify compliance. Participate with Soil and Water Conservation Technician in non-compliance and enforcement action. Track progress of NR-151 program implementation.
5. Assists with the development and implementation of the county's Land and Water Resource Management Plan; including the administration of, makes recommendations for and participates in the updates every 5 years.
6. Assists the active Farmer Led Watershed Councils in their efforts to advance the adoption of no-till, cover crops, soil testing, nutrient management, and other water quality protection initiatives.
7. Provides conservation planning and technical assistance to farmers and landowners, including laying out contour/buffer strips, mapping, assessing resource concerns, evaluating soil loss using USDA-NRCS approved soil loss programs and Snap Plus, and recommending conservation practices. Assists Soil and Water Conservation Technician and NRCS staff as needed.
8. Coordinates with Programs Assistant on Annual Tree Sale. Works with tree nurseries to choose which trees will be sold, develop tree sale order form, and oversee tree sorting and delivery.
9. Conducts public outreach by presenting soil and water conservation topics at area schools and local organizations; promotes Envirothon; promotes annual poster contest, develops annual fair display, and submits news articles on conservation related themes.
10. Coordinates Tri County Soil Judging Contest when it is held in Grant County and assists with the contest when it is held in Green and Lafayette Counties. Assists local schools and UW Platteville with their regional soil judging contests.
11. Assists with county and federal Soil and Water Conservation Technicians on survey, design and installation of conservation practices.
12. Provides in-office and phone customer service related to conservation planning, FPP, NMP

- and other CSZD related programs.
13. Maintains a professional relationship with county and federal staff, peers, and upper management, participating as a team member to provide greater efficiency
  14. Performs other duties as assigned

#### SUPERVISION RECEIVED

General and specific assignments are received, and work is performed according to methods and procedures with allowance for some independence in judgment in accomplishing the assignments

#### SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Possible field supervision of certain employees or student trainees

#### ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Work is performed both in an office setting and outside; outdoor work is performed along waterways, ponds, and in barnyards under all weather conditions including extremes of heat and cold, wet and humid, and exposure to noise, dust and fumes; duties require traveling to various locations and traversing rough terrain while carrying survey equipment

#### CLOSING STATEMENT

This description has been prepared to assist in evaluating duties, responsibilities and skills of this position. It is not intended as a complete list of specific responsibilities and duties, nor is it intended to limit duties to those listed. It is understood that the supervisor has the right to assign, direct, and modify duties and responsibilities.