NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position exists in the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and involves responsibility to perform technical duties in providing assistance to property owners, agricultural groups, and governmental agencies on soil and water conservation practices. The incumbent also coordinates educational and outreach programs on natural resource conservation. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Conservation District Manager. The incumbent does related work as required. All work will be completed according to the standards and specifications of USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, the New York State Guidelines and the SWCD. Work is checked by a review of plans, designs, reports, and field inspections. When participating in programs administered by the USDA, procedures, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA and the SWCD, will be followed. All duties are subject to assignment by the District Manager as detailed in the SWCD's Annual Plan of Work.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

-Conducts inventories and evaluations of natural resource management activities and soil investigations including perk tests, pond site investigations, and related projects, and prepares conservation plans and permit applications;
-Provides technical assistance to land owners, farm groups, and local governments by performing survey, design, cost estimates, layout, and construction inspection of soil and water conservation projects;
-Plans and implements conservation district programs such as the Tree and Shrub Program, Pond Stocking, and Agricultural Value Assessment;
-Coordinates information and educational programs to promote and increase awareness of natural resource conservation practices and issues;
-Prepares news articles on conservation district activities, issues and programs for the District Newsletter, Annual Report, and local newspapers;
-Develops grant proposals for special soil and water conservation programs;
-Reviews plans and offers advice to land owners on conservation implementation practices;
-Analyzes and makes recommendations on potential land use projects as they relate to soil, water and other natural resources;
-Attends functions and meetings and serves on committees on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation District as required by the District Manager. This may involve hours outside the normal tour of duty;
-Operates a personal computer for purposes of word processing, producing maps, and the design and engineering of conservation practices and may produce the district newsletter;
- May develop, maintain, and update the district website and social media pages;
- May attend professional training as required by the District Manager.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of soil and water conservation principles and practices; good knowledge of the design, materials and procedures used in conservation projects; working knowledge of mathematics including geometry and trigonometry; working knowledge of engineering survey; working knowledge of operation of personal computer; ability to interpret topographical maps, charts, and engineering designs; ability to compile information and prepare reports; ability to express oneself clearly and precisely both orally and in writing; ability to establish good working relationships with others; ability to carry out oral and written instructions; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Either (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree in environmental technology, mechanical or civil engineering technology, natural resource conservation, agricultural technology, or related field;

Or (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree in environmental technology, mechanical or civil engineering technology, natural resource conservation, agricultural technology, or related field, and two years of experience in natural resource protection, conservation construction projects or land surveying;

Or **(C)** Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and four years of experience described in **(B)** above;

Or **(D)** An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of **(A), (B),** and **(C)** above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid New York State Drivers License.

Competitive Class

Adopted 02/14/1997 Personnel Officer
Revised 11/18/2014 PO
Revised 5/11/2017 PO