

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



Project Scientist

Soil Scientist with expertise in Pedometrics/Pedology

Term: 1 year

The Soil Health Institute (SHI), a non-profit organization created to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement, located adjacent to the Research Triangle Park (RTP) near Raleigh, North Carolina, is seeking to hire a Project Scientist on a one-year contract to contribute to the Institute's program in promoting the adoption of soil health systems by farmers and ranchers. Specifically, this project has the aim of creating a spatially explicit map of soil health potential for agricultural soils across the United States and to pilot a "reference state" concept for establishing locally relevant soil health targets. The successful scientist will develop algorithms using USDA-NRCS soil information, pedological principles, and spatial covariate coverages to identify groupings of similar soils, locations of potential reference soils, and contribute to creating soil health targets.

The Project Scientist will lead deployment of pilot projects located in multiple states and will be part of a team of scientists at the Soil Health Institute that are geographically dispersed. Successful completion of the project will include development of theory, creation of maps, soil sampling and analyses, and submission of peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts as well as non-technical project reporting. Depending upon the candidate, this 1-year position may be staffed at SHI headquarters in Morrisville, North Carolina, or at a remote location (university, federal or private facility) as mutually agreed upon by the SHI, respective location administration, and the successful candidate.

Duties Include:

- Development of algorithms to classify and spatially map soils with similar soil health potential
- Coordinate and lead soil sampling campaigns that involve collaboration with local natural resource scientists (University, USDA-NRCS, or private) in Kansas, Texas, and Arkansas
- Contribute disciplinary input to other Institute projects
- Communicate and publish findings for scientific and agricultural producer/field practitioner audiences
- Proposal development
- Travel extensively during the site sampling phase of the project

Qualifications:

- A Ph.D. in Soil Science, or a related science
- Research experience in soil science, particularly pedology or pedometrics
- Evidence of effective written and oral communication
- Evidence of spatial data analyses and field pedology experience
- Expertise in spatial sampling design, field soil sampling, and statistical analysis is preferred
- Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States.

Compensation:

- It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be awarded a one-year contract for \$110,000 to be paid monthly over 12 months.

To apply, send cover letter, resume/C.V., college transcripts (unofficial copies permitted), and the contact information of 3 references to:

Cristine Morgan, Chief Scientific Officer, Soil Health Institute, cmorgan@soilhealthinstitute.org.

In the subject line of the email please write "application to pedometrics position."

The position will remain open until filled; however, the first review of applications will begin October 15, so all interested candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by that date.