

GRAZING SPECIALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This position provides professional services in the planning and application of soil, water, and resource conservation and development activities involving predominately pasture and hay land enterprises. The incumbent serves as a pasture specialist in support of professional rotational grazing management for Broome County. The employee works with individuals to install site-specific sustainable grazing systems and uses experience and innovative technologies to interpret, recommend, and consult regarding sound grazing management. Operations may require basic feed-balancing skills with rotational grazing plan. Fieldwork involves exposure to livestock and farm equipment. Supervision of others is not a function of this class. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIITIES:

Estimates forage production and potential for rotational grazing sites based on existing kinds/numbers of animals and land resources allocated for system development;

Interprets information to develop a sound rotational grazing plan to meet the identified needs of the co-operator;

Recommends the construction of necessary grazing improvements such as: fences, alternative watering systems, and laneways;

Recommends proper use and time of grazing;

Modifies, develops, and maintains technical guides, job sheets, training aids, and techniques for district staff;

Uses data to develop new or improved procedures, techniques, and guides for cooperators' grazing plan;

Uses NRCS resource conservation planning and AEM Tier 3 Planning process to develop cooperators' grazing plans;

Works with other counties to fulfill the four-county cooperative GRAZE NY agreement (complete work in Broome County);

Works with co-operators to integrate available conservation programs (state and federal) to develop a comprehensive approach to conservation resource planning;

Works with public and private co-operators and agencies to promote approved resource conservation planning;

Assists participating agencies with informational and education programs that address rotational grazing management;

Administers existing Ag Non Point Source grants for participating co-operators and writes additional implementation grants;

Administers the existing Non Ag Non Point System grant for hydro seeding critical areas in Broome County Municipalities;
Estimates and procures seed, mulch, and fertilizer for hydro seeding jobs;
Has responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the hydro seeder;
Has responsibility for delivery, calibration and maintenance of the district no-till seeder;
Assists with implementation of other SWCD programs and other duties as assigned.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of a wide variety of interrelated grazing practices, methods, and procedures to assess co-operators and provide recommendations;
Thorough knowledge of agronomic principles, soil characteristics, plants, and livestock operations to independently plan and apply grazing systems and structures on pastures and hay lands;
Good knowledge of nutrient management planning at the whole farm scale and the ability to apply this knowledge to nutrient loading, balancing and fertilization of pastures, hay land, and cropland.
Good knowledge of computer programs used in the planning and application of soil, water and resource conservation;
Working knowledge of surveying, design and implementation of appropriate Best Management Practices;
Working knowledge of commonly employed conservation practices, such as alternative watering systems, laneway improvements, and any others applicable to livestock operations;
Working knowledge of grant applications and administration of funded grant;
Working knowledge of other conservation programs (NYS Ag Nonpoint Pollution Program, CRP/CREP, AMA, EQIP, etc.) that are easily integrated into a rotational grazing plan to provide sound technical and financial assistance to co-operators.
Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;
Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously;
Ability to articulate ideas and information effectively.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in agronomy, agriculture, agricultural economics, natural resources, environmental sciences, or a closely related field and one year of experience in farm planning, design and implementation; OR
- B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two-year college with an associate's degree in agronomy, agriculture, agricultural economics, natural resources, environmental science, or a closely related field AND two years of experience in farm planning, design and implementation; OR
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as described in (a) and (b) above; AND

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

A valid New York State driver's license is required at the time of appointment and must be maintained throughout the life of employment. The employee must be able to safely lift up to fifty pounds as a requirement of employment.

NOTE:

The employee must provide protective wear as required, such as rain gear and steel-toed boots.

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COMPETITIVE