Research Specialist in Water Quality
Crop Sciences
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Illinois is a world leader in research, teaching, and public engagement. We serve the state, the nation, and the world by creating knowledge, preparing students for lives of impact, and addressing critical societal needs through the transfer and application of knowledge. Illinois is the place where we embrace difference. We embrace it because we value it. Illinois is especially interested in candidates who can contribute, through their research, teaching, and/or service, to the diversity and excellence of the Illinois community.

POSITION SUMMARY
Develop and manage a water quality research laboratory for analysis of nutrient pollution in agricultural waters.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Plan and direct laboratory analysis of water in a high quality, safe and efficient manner using various analytical methods (analyses including nitrogen and phosphorus species, COD, BOD, dissolved oxygen, oxidation reduction potential, pH, Alkalinity, etc. in a variety of sample matrices including water, wastewater, groundwater, and surface water).
- Procure and set-up new laboratory equipment and develop written standard operating procedures for all tests, including sample collection preservation.
- Ensure Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) for all parameter analysis. Ensure lab equipment is properly calibrated. Monitor and document operation of refrigerators, incubators and other equipment to assure sample integrity and analytical requirements are met.
- Prepare reagents, and maintain up-to-date chemical and equipment inventories including records of chemical shelf life and disposal.
- Adhere to all procedures to ensure reagents, chemicals and equipment are handled in a safe manner according to Chemical Hygiene plan, MSDS sheets, and Hazardous Waste procedures.
- Develop and manage laboratory budget and price lists for analytes.
- Data reporting using established protocols; maintain required analytical documentation including bench sheets, logbooks reports and other documentation, track number of results and QA/QC data.
- Train other staff and graduate/undergraduate students on analytical procedures, techniques and theory according to laboratory training program. Advises group regarding sampling and testing results, including sample size, sampling protocol and preservatives.
- Supervise hourly student employees by creating work schedules, assigning work detail and overseeing quality of work.
- Conduct research at field sites located around the state.

EDUCATION
Required: BS in Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Agricultural Engineering or related field

EXPERIENCE
Required: Candidates must have at least two years water quality and wet chemistry laboratory experience, or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
Preferred: Experience with wet chemistry lab equipment (e.g., Lachat FIA, Hach spectrophotometer), water sensors, samplers, monitors and pumps (e.g., Teledyne ISCO, YSI, Solinst, Hach, Masterflex).

TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES
Must possess or be able to obtain an Illinois Driver’s License. This position may require work with potentially hazardous and noxious materials in indoor, outdoor, or greenhouse settings. The successful candidate must take proper safety precautions, anticipate unsafe circumstances, and act accordingly to prevent accidents.
There is occasional need to stand, walk, lift heavy objects (up to 50 pounds) and perform other similar actions during the course of the workday. The physical and mental requirements described are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

**KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS**
Excellent organizational skills and the ability to initiate and supervise daily tasks ensuring quality work and attention to detail. **Extensive knowledge of:** the principles, practices and procedures of chemistry, biological process and analysis as it relates to drinking water and waste water treatment; state and federal laws and regulations regarding water quality and analysis; laboratory safety and hazard communication; proper labeling, use, storage and disposal of chemicals.

**APPOINTMENT STATUS**
This is a 12-month, 100% academic professional position.

**SALARY**
Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**PROPOSED STARTING DATE**
This position is available as soon as possible after the closing date. Application materials may be reviewed prior to the close date and will continue until the most qualified candidate is identified.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**
Please create your candidate profile at [http://jobs.illinois.edu](http://jobs.illinois.edu) and upload a cover letter indicating your qualifications, resume and contact information for three references by March 1, 2016. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered. Individuals with diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. For further information regarding application procedures, you may contact Linda Kemplin. You may also visit [http://cropsci.illinois.edu](http://cropsci.illinois.edu) for additional information.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

*Illinois is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, status as a qualified individual with a disability, or criminal conviction history. Illinois welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity.*