

**Narragansett Indian Tribe
Job Vacancy Announcement
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Agricultural Technician (AgTech)**

Closing Date: April 4, 2022

Hiring Department: Community Planning/Natural Resources

Location: NRCS Warwick/Narragansett Tribe

Employment Conditions: Full-Time (based on availability of funds)

Work Hours: Day Shift (May require longer hours in preparation of cultural events/weather conditions)

Days of Work: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

I. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

This position is that of Agricultural Technician (AgTech) for the Narragansett Indian Tribe. The purpose of this agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service is to provide technical assistance and oversight in the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District in cooperation with the Narragansett Indian Tribe. The duties are to provide a broad array of assistance to the Rhode Island USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs. The position will assist program applicants with the required forms, eligibility and assistance on the nine steps of conservation planning to help applicants develop conservation plans. Additional duties will include assistance in managing existing Farm Bill contracts as requested by the District Conservationist. Training will be provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The applicant will be required to perform duties both in and at the NRCS office and in the field as well as in an office at the Narragansett Indian Tribe's Department of Community Planning and Natural Resources.

II. DUTIES

1. Become familiar with Farm Bill programs utilized in Rhode Island and all application materials that will be needed by an applicant to become eligible to participate in individual programs. Meet with potential applicants to discuss the individual program eligibility requirements and assist with required paperwork. Complete field visits as needed to collect additional information required for applications. Become proficient in the use of Protracts the NRCS contracting system. Enter applications as needed into the Protracts System.
2. Assists in gathering and assembling preliminary data for use in developing complete basic farm conservation plans utilizing Toolkit and Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Identifies and locates resource concern areas and performs preliminary layout work such as contour lines and field boundaries; determines field acreages; prepare conservation plan maps, and assists in assembling completed farm plan folders.
3. Develops preliminary conservation plan for applicants as assigned by the District Conservationist. Carries out a follow-up schedule for drafting and finalizing the conservation plan required as part of the application package. Develops contracting documents as need and reviews the documents with the applicants. Makes changes as needed to finalize the contract documents based on input from the participant. Review contract documents with the District Conservationist prior to participant signature.
4. Keeps daily records of time and work accomplishments, and summarizes time and accomplishments for periodic and special reports.
5. Receives training in professional farm planning methods and procedures and the application of conservation practices in order to develop a well-rounded experience in soil conservation work and to better understand the interrelation of the various functional fields in the soil and water conservation program.

6. Assists NRCS Field Staff and Engineers with layout and inspects construction of practices during installation to assure adherence to service standards.
7. Provide assistance to the Narragansett Indian Tribe's Agricultural Division.
8. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Position Eligibility: applicants can be:

1. A degree-seeking college student enrolled for at least a half-time course load at an accredited institution of higher education. Major field of study MUST be in Agriculture, Agronomy, Botany, Forestry, Natural Resources, Plant Science, Rangeland Management, Soil Conservation, Soil Science, or another discipline closely related to and qualifying for the position being filled; or
2. Possess five years combined knowledge and experience with agriculture, conservation and natural resources, gain from hands-on experience; or
3. Have acquired at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as those in forestry, agriculture, crop or plant science, range management or conservation, wildlife management, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except marine fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wild land fire science. No more than 6 semester hours in mathematics is creditable.
4. A student in good standing and having a record as a student that is in all respects predictive of graduation. Student must maintain at least a 2.0 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent, and maintain a grade of "C" or better at all times in the major field of study.
5. Gained life experience from working in the agricultural or natural resources field.
6. Able to meet all physical, medical, security, and Federal eligibility requirements.

Physical Demands

The work requires regular and recurring physical exertion related to ditches and furrows, or climbing steep banks.

Work Environment

The work involves regular and recurrent exposure to operating agricultural equipment or earth moving operations, adverse weather, bad field conditions, and unimproved roads. Protective equipment is necessary on construction sites.

Additional Requirements:

Must be able to pass a background investigation and pre-employment drug test (NRCS/Tribe)

This position is classified as Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): non-exempt. (NRCS)

Must have a valid state driver's license