

United States Department of Agriculture

Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-ment reason such as race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization. NRCS provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.



STATUS VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT NO: NRCS-MO-03-037

POSITION TITLE, SERIES, GRADE:

Agricultural Economist
GS-110-9/11/12

OPENING DATE: August 26, 2003

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT & WORK SCHEDULE:

Career/Career Conditional, Full time position

CLOSING DATE: September 26, 2003
BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS (4:30 pm)

SALARY RANGE: \$47,110-61,248

DUTY LOCATION AND ORGANIZATION:

Missouri State Office, Water Resources Staff
Columbia, MO

Relocation expenses are authorized for this position

PCS - permanent change of station

WHO MAY APPLY:

Government Wide; Applications will be accepted from current Federal employees serving under a career or career conditional appointment, former Federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA) eligibles and permanent Farm Service Agency County Committee employees (Career Conditional – 1 yr probationary period). Applications will also be accepted from U. S. citizens eligible for consideration under Special Hiring Authorities (i.e. VRA, Peace Corps, Vista, Handicap, 30% Disabled Veteran). See "Other Information" for more details. All "Non-Status" applicants (Applicants with no prior Federal civilian experience.) must apply under vacancy announcement number NRCS-MO-03-DE-037 which can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov

MAJOR DUTIES:

This position is located on the Water Resources staff under the supervision of the Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources. The incumbent will work closely with other staff members to perform economic analysis related to watershed planning. Conducts investigations needed to appraise floodwater, erosion, and sediment damages to agricultural lands and its products, urban and rural developments and to develop estimates of benefits that will accrue from the reduction of these damages. Provides estimates of benefits that may accrue from establishment of recreational areas within the specified areas. Collects and analyzes economic data by interviewing farm operators and groups. Conducts economic studies for evaluation of water management features such as drainage, irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife improvement, and municipal or industrial, rural, domestic, and livestock water storage. Assists in determining program cost allocation for multiple purpose structures and cost sharing. Collaborates with other federal, state and local agencies and individuals to secure data for economic studies, analyze these as to adaptability and use in the studies being made. Evaluates the economic feasibility of proposed projects to ensure compliance with the overall plan and what is required by PL-566 as amended. Works closely with other staff and sponsors to analyze and study economic benefits and damages for watershed planning.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements for the GS-110 series as set forth in the Qualification Standards for GS Positions. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in economics that included at least 12 semester hours in economics and 3 semester hours in statistics, accounting, or calculus, OR a combination of education and experience with courses equivalent to a major in economics plus appropriate professional experience performing work involving economics. Candidates must have at least one year specialized experience at the next lower grade level. Substitution of education for experience: A masters degree or equivalent in economics is qualifying for the GS-9 level. A PhD or equivalent is qualifying for the GS-11 level. At the GS-12 level, candidates must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-11 level, no substitution of education is allowed. Applicants can view the full qualification standards at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-IV/B/GS0100/0110.HTM> and <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-IV/A/GS-PROF.HTM>.

Specialized Experience: Experience in which the candidate performed or assisted with economic studies concerning the planning and evaluation of land treatment and water management phases of water and land resource planning. Performed or assisted with investigations used in computing annual amounts of erosion damages, value of floodwater and

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sediment damages, and the monetary benefits accruing from the reduction of these damages due to the application of conservation measures.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED (KSA's):

The following knowledges, skills and abilities (KSAs) are required for this job. For each KSA, you must prepare a two page or less written statement that explains how you meet the specific KSA. KSA Responses are limited to two (2) pages per KSA.

Note: Non-competitive candidates (Lateral Transfers) are not required to submit responses to the KSA's

A. Knowledge of economic principles, theories and concepts in order to conduct studies, surveys and analyses to determine economic feasibility of proposed works of improvement in various river basins and watersheds.

B. Knowledge of agricultural and natural resource concepts, principles, and disciplines, including local, state and federal watershed programs policies and procedures (i.e., PL-566) in order to collect, analyze and interpret economic data and apply them to agency projects and programs.

C. Ability to interpret economic data, identify and analyze problems, generate alternatives, and make recommendations in order to ensure efficient processes and quality products.

D. Ability to communicate with others in order to collect information, express ideas and facts, make effective presentations, exchange ideas, and prepare reports, evaluations, and other documents.

E. Ability to utilize computer software for quantitative analysis (databases, online information resources, basic programming, etc) in order to accomplish economic evaluations and produce reports and data output as requested.

BASIS OF RATING:

Your rating will be based on an evaluation of your experience and education as it relates to the qualification requirements and the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's) listed. You should provide detailed evidence of your possession of the KSA's in your application as well as in your KSA responses with clear concise examples that include level of accomplishment, and degree of responsibility.

HOW TO APPLY: Applicants who wish to be considered must apply in writing to the address listed in this announcement, by submitting the following forms and information:

- A current, dated and signed, SF-171 (Application for Federal Employment), OR resume OR OF-612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment), OR any other form of application, including experience, training, awards instructions in preparing a Federal resume is available at this site: <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/of0510.pdf>. This is the same information that is identified on the OF-612 application form, which can be found at www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.htm. You don't need to send both an OF-612 application form and a Resume.
- A current performance plan (Form SF-4140 if USDA employee)
- OPM Form 1386, Background Survey Questionnaire 79-2 (Optional)
- Written response to each of the Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) identified in this vacancy announcement, addressing specific evidence as to how knowledge, skill, or ability was obtained.
- Applicants applying for a position in a series different from the one, in which they are currently serving, must provide evidence (e.g., college transcripts) to support their basic qualifications.
- Latest SF-50b (Notification of Personnel Action) documenting current salary, grade, and type of appointment.

Submit Your Application Package to:

By Mail: USDA-NRCS
Human Resources Office
Parkade Center, Suite 250
601 Business Loop 70W
Columbia, MO 65203
Attn: Aubrey Ash

By e-mail: aubrey.ash@mo.usda.gov

By Facsimile: (573) 876-9441

You will be contacted regarding the status of your application. Selections normally take approximately four to six weeks after the closing date of the announcement.

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Contact Person for Additional Information: Name: Aubrey Ash Phone: (573) 876-0904

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- If you are a male over age 18 who was born after December 31, 1959, you must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for Federal employment.
- You must be a United States Citizen or National (resident of American Samoa and Swains Island) to be considered for this job.
- If you are selected for this job and you are a non-status candidate (i.e. a special hiring authority eligible), you must pass a pre-employment medical examination.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Information on Special Hiring Authorities - If you any of the following apply to you, please refer to the websites provided for additional documentation that may be required.

- a 30% compensably disabled Veteran (<http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.htm>),
- a VRA eligible (<http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.htm>),
- a person with a severe physical handicap (<http://www.opm.gov/disability/>), or
- a former Peace Corps or VISTA Volunteer

You must tell us in your application under which of these special hiring authorities you wish to be considered. If you want to be considered under a special hiring authority as well as the regular competitive process, you must submit two complete applications and request the dual consideration. When only one application is received from a special hiring authority eligible, it will be considered under the appropriate special hiring authority only. You must submit proof of your eligibility with your application or you will not be considered under a special hiring authority. The VRA hiring authority is limited to positions at the GS-11 level and below.

NRCS provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

Information on ICTAP/CTAP- Individuals who have special priority selection eligibility under the Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) must be well qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. For CTAP and ICTAP, well-qualified means: meets the qualification standards and eligibility requirements for the position, meets minimum education and experience requirements, meets all selective factors where applicable, and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry. Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 30.605 (a) for CTAP and 5 CFR 330.704 for ICTAP. This includes proof of eligibility, a copy of their most recent Performance Rating and a copy of their most recent SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) noting current position, grade level, and duty location. Please annotate your application to reflect that you are applying as a CTAP or ICTAP eligible.

What other important things do you need to know about submitting a successful application package?

- Do not send position descriptions, manuscripts, personal endorsements, training certificates, publications, work samples, or any other unsolicited material. They will be discarded. References to these items may be made in your application, resume, or KSA responses.
- Do not submit your application materials in a notebook, binder, or other cumbersome covering. It will be discarded. Cover letters are acceptable.
- You cannot use postage-paid government envelopes, messenger envelopes, federal stamps, and federal postage meters to file your applications. It is a violation of USDA regulations. Applications received directly or indirectly through these means will not be considered.
- Application packages will not be returned to you.
- If you wish to have education acquired outside the United States credited for the educational requirements of this position, you must prove that it has been evaluated as equivalent to the education gained in accredited United States colleges and universities. Submit documentation of your education to a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign educational credentials for a determination. The Council on Postsecondary Accreditation may be of assistance in providing information on these organizations

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(www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation/accredus.html). The processing of this vacancy announcement will not be delayed pending receipt of your evaluation materials.

- A professional application gives a positive impression to hiring managers. It is recommended that you make the effort to assure your application is neat, legible, error free, easy to read, and concise.