

Cropping Systems, Assistant Professor

Position Open : September 26, 2013

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS)
Southwest Research & Outreach Center (SWROC), Lamberton, MN
University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota seeks a faculty member to provide leadership for research and extension education programs in Cropping Systems Management that focus on using innovative approaches to enhance Minnesota cropping systems for improving productivity, profitability and delivery of ecosystem services. Issues pertaining to corn and soybean management are especially relevant in Minnesota. It is expected that research and extension programming will integrate new and innovative approaches to maintain resource stewardship, sustainability and multi-functionality of cropping systems.

Appointment:

This is a nine-month tenure track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor with duties divided between research (60%) and extension education (40%).

The position is supported by CFANS, SWROC and U of M Extension. The position is located at the University of Minnesota SWROC near Lamberton, MN and is expected to be an active member of the CFANS department that best matches the candidate's expertise. Research areas might include but are not limited to: precision management; remote sensing; crop rotations; integration of cover crop components or other crops into current cropping systems to enhance resource stewardship and cropping sustainability; and cultural practices in cropping systems to optimize yield with emphasis on multifunctional agriculture and the delivery of ecosystem services. The position will provide leadership and work within the Extension Crops Program team in the planning, development and implementation of education programs on innovations in cropping systems.

The successful candidate will work with SWROC and CFANS research scientists and educators as well as regional and local Extension educators, governmental agencies, the agricultural industry, and diverse clientele groups to develop high quality research and Extension education programs.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Obtain extramural funding and publish in relevant peer-reviewed journals.
- Recruit and involve graduate students in research.
- Develop and implement a nationally and internationally recognized research and extension education program.

Background:

The University of Minnesota's SWROC is a nationally recognized research facility where conventional, organic and environmental agricultural research occurs. The SWROC is part of a Research and Outreach system that includes nine other research centers across Minnesota. The SWROC has a strong and significant commitment to cropping systems research and Extension. Currently the Center has 820 acres of land utilized for research and another 1900 acres may be made available for large scale studies. A modern laboratory, greenhouse and field equipment are available.

Qualifications - Required:

- Ph.D. or equivalent in agronomy, plant sciences or field related to cropping systems by date of appointment
- Strong written communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to propose and conduct independent and collaborative research and publish results in scientific journals
- Experience in field research techniques and statistical analysis of field data
- Experience in interpreting and reporting results to agricultural and non-agricultural clientele and the scientific community
- Experience in extension education in agronomy, plant sciences, or related fields

Qualifications – Preferred/Desired:

- Familiarity with corn-soybean cropping systems of the Midwest, USA
- Strong oral communication skills
- Experience in successful educational programming in applied research
- A history of successful grant applications and demonstrated ability to publish for both the scientific community and the producer clientele
- Experience working effectively in interdisciplinary research and Extension teams and with diverse clientele groups
- Demonstrated experience with precision management; remote sensing; crop rotations; integration of cover crop components or other crops into current cropping systems to enhance resource stewardship and cropping sustainability; or cultural practices in cropping systems to optimize yield with emphasis on multifunctional agriculture and the delivery of ecosystem services

Salary and benefits:

The tenure-track position will be filled at the rank of Assistant Professor with a nine-month (B-term), 100% time appointment. The tenure department within CFANS will be determined by the expertise of the chosen candidate. Salary will be competitive and commensurate with professional experience and qualifications. Benefits include a competitive faculty retirement program, and group life, medical and dental insurance plans, disability benefits, sick leave, and sabbatical opportunities. Two months of summer salary for the first three (3) years will be covered in addition to three (3) years' salary for a graduate student. A competitive start-up package with funding to support the position will be provided.

Application Process:

Apply online via the University of Minnesota Employment System at <https://employment.umn.edu>.
(Requisition Number: 187445)

Applicants must complete the online application and include the following attachments:

1. A statement (3 pages maximum) including: a) how your research and education experiences fit this position, b) innovative approaches to research in cropping systems, c) Extension interests as related to this position, and d) examples of potential interdisciplinary collaboration as related to this position.
2. A detailed vitae including a list of publications, and grant proposals, and Extension or classroom education activities.
3. Copies of official academic transcripts.

Separately, please invite three professional references to submit their letters of recommendation directly to Dr. Jeff Strock by email at (jstrock@umn.edu). Your application will not be considered complete without these reference letters.

NOTE: In support of the college's strong commitment to and respect for diversity and cultural competence, finalists invited for interviews will be asked to provide a statement describing interest, experience with, and commitment to diversity and inclusiveness.

Review of applications will begin January 2014 and continue until the position is filled. The projected starting date is Spring, 2014 or as agreed upon mutually. Inquiries about the position should be addressed to one of the Search Committee Co-Chairs:

- Dr. Craig Sheaffer (sheaf001@umn.edu) or 612-625-7224
- Dr. Jeff Strock (jstrock@umn.edu) or 507-752-5064

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. As an institution committed to demonstrating excellence through diversity, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences is committed to hiring a diverse faculty and staff, and actively encourages candidates from historically underrepresented groups to apply.