

## Position Announcement

**Position:** Extension Associate - Watershed Economist  
Office of Local Government, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University  
Full-time, term position, subject to funding availability and annual performance review.

**Date Available:** The starting date is negotiable.

**Responsibilities:** This position is responsible for providing economic analyses of land use management alternatives in watersheds to support local community decision making in the development of Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies (WRAPS) in Kansas. The successful candidate will work on a multi-disciplinary team with other extension watershed specialists under the direction of university faculty and will be expected to collaborate with other federal, state, and local agencies; other extension personnel at the state and local level; and private organizations and groups. Specific responsibilities include: (1) estimating the cost effectiveness of implementing alternative on-farm and general land management practices intended to improve water quality in urban and rural watersheds; (2) compiling financial and cost data related to urban, rural, agricultural, and other relevant land use and farm enterprise management practices for the purpose of estimating cost and returns for enterprise budgets and net present value analysis of land management alternatives; (3) providing general perspectives related to non-market valuation to complement estimates of market values to ensure local leadership teams incorporate a full understanding of the economic implications of land management alternatives; (4) providing technical support to the local project leadership team; (5) compiling, interpreting and making available in a user-friendly form existing studies and other information about the economics of land use practices; (6) compiling, interpreting and making available in a user-friendly form existing water quality data and studies; (7) making public presentations of analysis findings to local steering committees and lay audiences; (8) contributing to educational outreach programs, including field tours, workshops, and public meetings; (9) drafting written reports of economic analyses and study conclusions; and (10) identifying and quantifying improved water quality conditions. In addition, this position will (11) provide analysis and educational support for research and outreach related to market-based environmental management initiatives ongoing in the department. The position will be located in Manhattan, Kansas.

### Qualifications:

#### Required:

- Completed Master's Degree with major coursework and training appropriate to the needs of the position; appropriate training requires major emphasis on farm management analysis techniques, agricultural economics, and/or natural resource economics.
- Knowledge of agricultural production practices and previous farm management experience.
- Excellent computer and quantitative analysis skills, including budgeting, net present value feasibility analysis, linear programming and basic econometrics.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with a diverse project team and stakeholders.
- Ability to communicate complex economic issues to a public audience.
- Ability to travel frequently within the state, possibly requiring overnight stays.
- Strong technical writing skills and experience in developing economic analysis reports and documents.
- Self-starting and independently motivated. Ability to advance project activities with a minimum of supervision.

#### Preferred:

- Academic coursework in the natural sciences and a basic understanding of hydrologic processes and water quality characteristics.
- Knowledge of fundamental farm management decision-making tools, principles of natural resource economics with applications to water quality and watershed management.
- Ability to facilitate group meetings and workshops in a local setting.

**Salary & Benefits:** Salary is commensurate with candidate's ability and experience. The Kansas State University benefit package includes a retirement plan, group health and life insurance, worker's compensation, vacation, sick leave and other benefits.

**How to Apply:** Applicants are requested to (1) submit a letter of application that includes a statement of interest, qualification and aspiration; a resume; and transcripts of college and university work, and (2) arrange for three letters of reference to be sent to:

Dr. Bryan Schurle, Head; Department of Agricultural Economics; 342 Waters Hall  
Kansas State University; Manhattan, KS 66506

**Deadline:** Review of applications will commence beginning June 1, 2008 and continue until the position is filled. Questions about this position can be directed to Dr. John Leatherman at 785-532-4492, e-mail: [jleather@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:jleather@agecon.ksu.edu)

**Affirmative Action:** Kansas State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. KSU encourages diversity among its employees. Paid for by Kansas State University.