M.S. Graduate Assistantship in Soil Science

Evaluating regulated deficit irrigation for sustainable cider apple production

Washington State University, Mount Vernon, WA

Description of Research Opportunity:
A research assistantship is available for an M.S. (or Ph.D.) student with the Soils & Water program at WSU’s Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Mount Vernon, WA. The student will work on a project funded by a Washington State Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant to evaluate the potential of regulated deficit irrigation to improve cider apple fruit and juice quality while conserving irrigation water. The project team includes faculty from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, the Department of Horticulture, and the School of Economic Sciences, and this represents a great opportunity for a student with multidisciplinary interests in soil science, horticulture, economics, and agricultural extension.

Most graduate students at the NWREC are based in Mount Vernon for the duration of their graduate school experience, though options to spend a semester on the main campus in Pullman may be available if desired. The project will include field trials in both Mount Vernon (at the NWREC) and in Wenatchee, WA (with a commercial grower-collaborator).

Desired Qualifications:
Successful completion of a B.S. degree in a related field, strong technical writing ability, and effective oral communication skills are required. Prior experience in soil science, tree fruit production, statistical analyses, and agricultural extension will be considered favorably. Students are expected to exhibit teamwork and contribute to other projects within the NWREC Soils & Water program.

Contact:
Please contact Dr. Gabriel LaHue by e-mail with any questions: gabriel.lahue@wsu.edu

Apply:
Interested persons should apply to the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (CSS). Please visit CSS at http://css.wsu.edu.

Assistantship Details: Graduate assistantships are formal half-time, academic-year appointments accompanied by a summer stipend, with an annual estimated total of $22,908. Graduate assistants are also provided tuition waivers, as well comprehensive health (medical/dental) insurance, and are eligible for additional support through scholarships, fellowships, and travel grant awards.