Position Announcement
HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY

Responsibilities: Purdue University’s nationally and internationally recognized Agronomy Department is seeking a dynamic head with a broad vision for plant, soil, and environmental sciences. The Head will lead a diverse group of talented faculty and staff in fulfilling the research, teaching and extension missions of a premier Agronomy Department in a major land grant university. The successful candidate is expected to provide leadership in administrative, fiscal, and human resource matters. The Head is also expected to uphold the Department’s long-standing commitment to international programs; act as a liaison within the university and with government agencies and industry groups; help strengthen interdisciplinary activities; foster an inclusive environment; and represent the Department to professional organizations, the university community, and society at large.

Qualifications: The successful candidate must have an earned doctoral degree and an outstanding record of scholarly achievement in agronomy or other discipline relevant to the Department with an established record of effectiveness in teaching, research, and/or extension. Candidates must qualify for the rank of full professor with tenure in the Department. Experience in a land-grant university is preferred. The person must be skilled in building teams, in managing interdisciplinary programs in research, extension, and/or education, and in effectively communicating with diverse groups including students, alumni, and clientele/general public. Candidates must be skilled in setting priorities, allocating resources, and facilitating innovation.

The Department: Agronomy is one of the largest and most diverse departments in the College of Agriculture, with research spanning basic to applied topics in soils, crops, environmental, and earth system sciences. The Department has 40 faculty and 63 professional, clerical, and technical staff. The Department currently has about 184 undergraduate majors and also provides leadership to the interdisciplinary program in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Graduate research programs (69 students) include: water, air and climate; soil and land use; crops and the changing environment. Faculty participate in interdisciplinary programs in biochemistry and molecular biology, genetics, geographic information systems and remote sensing, plant physiology, water resources, and in several interdisciplinary research/learning centers across the campus. The Department has a productive research partnership with USDA/ARS in both crops and soils. Extension team is relevant and responsive to the needs of the stakeholders in crops, soils, and environment across Indiana and the nation. Hands-on training workshops, field days and conferences, digital delivery (website, videos, apps), and published recommendations are the foundation of these efforts. The Department is committed to international dimensions of the discipline and actively engages in global education and research.

The Department has excellent office/laboratory/greenhouse space and field research capabilities near campus and at locations across the state, and an annual budget of ~$20 million, more than half of this from extramural sources. The Department is also part of the Purdue Plant Sciences Initiative, a $20 plus million University commitment to faculty, facilities, equipment, and academic programs and one of the Purdue Moves. After completing an external review in September, the Department is poised to develop new programs to address larger, interdisciplinary, societal issues. The new head will provide leadership to these efforts. Additional information about the Department can be obtained at http://www.agry.purdue.edu.

The College: The Department is an integral part of the College of Agriculture, one of the world’s leading colleges of agricultural, food, life, and natural resource sciences and ranked eighth globally in the 2016 QS World University Rankings. The College is deeply committed to the three land-grant missions (teaching, research, and extension), to international activities and perspectives that span all missions, and to supporting a diverse and inclusive environment focused on excellence in all we do. Purdue is an ADVANCE institution – www.purdue.edu/dp/advance. The College has 11 academic departments and includes 337 faculty, 2736 undergraduate students, and 699 graduate students. The College’s strategic plan can be accessed at https://ag.purdue.edu/plan/Pages/default.aspx.

Application Procedure: Qualified persons are requested to submit the following: a letter of application; a statement of the applicant’s vision and administrative philosophy, emphasizing their ability to provide leadership to the research, teaching, and extension missions of the Department; a complete curriculum vita including names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of five references. Initial nominations and inquiries will be kept confidential; references will be contacted only upon the applicant’s approval. Nominations of potential candidates for the position are welcome. A background check is required for employment in this position.

Applications, nominations, and inquiries should be addressed to: Professor Ken Foster, Chair of the Department Head Search Committee, Purdue University, 615 W. State Street, West Lafayette IN 47907-2053. Electronic submission is preferred and should be sent to rdrhr@purdue.edu. Screening of applicants will begin January 9, 2017, and will continue until a suitable candidate is identified. Questions regarding the position may be sent to Ken Foster at (765) 494-4191 (k foster@purdue.edu).

Purdue University is an EOE/AA employer.
All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply.