Name and location of host site: The National Center for Appropriate Technology - ATTRA. Butte, MT

Title: Energy Corps Member – Precision Agriculture

Number of positions: 1

Reports to: ATTRA Program Manager

Term of service: June 1, 2018 – August 31, 2018

Anticipated service schedule: 450 hours over course of service term. Roughly 40 Hours per week. Occasional evening/weekend hours may be necessary.

Position Summary:
NCAT has need of a member capable of researching, analyzing and disseminating information on new technologies that help to save energy, water and farm chemicals for agriculture producers. In particular, the researcher will be analyzing precision agriculture techniques including using robotics in agriculture, data collection for crop and soil analysis, and predictive analytics – machine learning models that track and predict environmental impacts on crops. The member should have a technical background that allows them to understand complex technologies, data analysis, and good communication skills to write and present their findings. The goal of the ATTRA precision agriculture study is to develop educational materials available that will inform farmers about the opportunities, resource and cost savings, and positive environmental consequences of adopting precision agriculture into their operations. The researcher should have a basic understanding of agricultural production system, with a more in depth knowledge or ability to research and understand technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), soil and water monitoring with centralized data collection, and the use of GPS and robotics for unmanned, self-driving field machinery and precision irrigation.

Currently, small and medium sized agricultural production operations do not have access to information that allows them to scale precision agriculture to their operations. With the proper education on what technologies are available to them and how to implement these new technologies, small to medium sized operations have the economic ability to become more energy efficient, profitable, and environmentally sustainable.

Specific Position Responsibilities:
• Research – the AmeriCorps member will research precision agriculture and the scalability of the appropriate technologies to small and medium sized farms.
• Write - The AmeriCorps member will co-author a comprehensive publication that introduces and explains the most common precision agriculture technologies and techniques available to farmers with the benefits and liabilities of adoption analyzed.
• Present – The AmeriCorps member may create videos, make personal presentations and may appear in outreach materials such as podcasts, webinars, and media interviews to disseminate and promote the findings of their research.
Minimum Requirements:

- Ability to work independently with limited supervision
- Must be over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; some college or work experience preferred
- Ability to work as part of a team and individually
- Ability to relate to people from diverse backgrounds
- Good organization and communication skills, presents self in a professional manner, and is outgoing and personable
- Experienced public speaker and excellent writing skills
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite
- Background and/or interest in energy.
- Member will not have reoccurring access to vulnerable populations

Desired Skills:

- The member should have skills that make them capable of researching, analyzing and disseminating information on new technologies that make precision agriculture possible.
- In particular, the researcher will be analyzing robotics in agriculture, data collection for crop and soil analysis, and predictive analytics – machine learning models that track and predict environmental impacts on crops.
- The member should have a technical background that allows them to understand complex technologies, data analysis, and good communication skills to write and present their findings.

Benefits: This Energy Corps position will receive the following benefits:

- Opportunity to make a difference in a community
- Green job training and professional development
- Living allowance of $3,157 over term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award $1,538 upon successful completion of service
- Health benefits and child care assistance if qualified

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate can be identified. Early applications are encouraged and applications will be considered as they are received. All persons interested in being considered for the position must submit an Energy Corps application form. The application form may be downloaded at https://www.energy corps.org/pdf_positions/energy corps_app_0418.pdf or requested from Lonni Starcevich, Energy Corps Program Director. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The completed application form can be emailed to lonnis@ncat.org or sent to:

Lonni Starcevich
NCAT Energy Corps Program Director
P.O. Box 3838
Butte, MT 59702

NCAT values diversity and encourages minority and women applicants to apply. For additional information about NCAT please visit our website at www.ncat.org. It is NCAT’s policy and organizational philosophy to ensure that all of our employment practices, including recruitment and hiring, are administered for all individuals without regard to race, sex, creed, color, national origin, age, religion, marital or veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.