

**MS Graduate Research Assistantship: Soil Quality as Influenced by Agroforestry and Grass Buffers on Grazed Pasture Watersheds at the University of Missouri.**

Funding is available for a two-year MS assistantship at the University of Missouri starting January 2009 to conduct hypothesis driven research on soil quality as influenced by agroforestry practices on grazed-pasture watersheds. The project is located at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, with six managed small watersheds, located in New Franklin, Missouri. The successful applicant will be a team member in a comprehensive research project investigating water quality; soil physical, chemical, and biological parameters; and above- and below-ground biomass accumulation under grazed-pasture management integrated with agroforestry systems. The assistantship will involve a combination of field work (i.e., sample collection), laboratory analysis, and pertinent literature review. The research assistant will be responsible for interpreting and synthesizing this information to develop a comprehensive index for soil quality assessment in a grazed pasture management system. The graduate assistant will also be expected to collaborate with a team of scientists in agroforestry, soil science, and microbiology; present research findings at national conferences; and write scientific findings for peer-reviewed journals.

Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in natural resources management, agroforestry, soil science, agronomy, soil microbiology, or closely related fields. More information about the Center for Agroforestry (<http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/>), Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences (<http://www.snr.missouri.edu/seas/>), and information on admission requirements, deadlines, applying to graduate school (<https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=umc-grad>) can be accessed through the world wide web. The selected student will be hired as a graduate research assistant in the Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences and enrolled in the graduate school during winter semester of 2009 (January-2009). This graduate assistantship will be sponsored by the University of Missouri's Center for Agroforestry, with Drs. Ranjith Udawatta, Robert Kremer, and Stephen Anderson serving as co-advisors.

The successful applicant will receive a stipend of approximately \$15,500/year for two years. Tuition is waived and medical insurance is provided. Additional funding is available for research-related expenses, and to support travel to present results at professional meetings. To apply for this assistantship, please send the following materials to Dr. Udawatta at the address given below: (1) letter explaining research interests, (2) current resume, (3) transcripts (copies are acceptable), (4) GRE scores (copies are acceptable), and (5) a list of three references along with email addresses, phone numbers, and postal addresses.

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