M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship Available

Long-term effects of crop rotation on soil quality and plant productivity

University of Kentucky, Department of Plant & Soil Sciences

The RESEARCH - The Rhizosphere Science Laboratory (www.rhizolab.com) in the Department of Plant and Soil Science at The University of Kentucky is seeking a highly motivated M.S. student to work on a research project designed to assess how crop rotation in minimal-till agroecosystems correlates with shifts in rhizosphere microbial community structure and function in long-term (26 year) rotational plots and relate these findings to soil quality parameters (e.g. pH, aggregate stability, POM-C) and crop health and productivity.

QUALIFICATIONS: The ideal candidate will have an undergraduate B.S. degree in microbiology, soil science, agronomy, chemistry or related field and experience working in a laboratory. Strong organizational, quantitative, and communication skills are required. The candidate will complete coursework necessary for a Master of Science degree in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences with an agreed upon emphasis area of their choosing (please see https://pss.ca.uky.edu/ipss for more information).

The LOCATION: The University of Kentucky is situated in Lexington Kentucky, a vibrant and progressive, family-friendly city with a bustling entertainment scene conveniently situated in the inner bluegrass region of Kentucky just 80 miles from Louisville and Cincinnati and a short drive to the world-renowned Red River Gorge and Daniel Boone National Forest. Lexington airport is well connected with daily flights to several major hubs (Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Dallas, Washington, Philadelphia) making travel to any national or international destination simple.

To APPLY: Application deadline is August 1, 2016 but will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. The assistantship includes a generous stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance. Candidates interested in this exciting opportunity should send their CV, a cover letter describing their relevant experience and interest in the position, GRE and TOEFL (international students) scores, and academic transcripts via email to:

Dr. David McNear
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Applications and inquiries from women and minorities are particularly encouraged. The University of Kentucky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications will be accepted without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The address of the College of Agriculture EEO Coordinator is room S-101 Agricultural Science Building, 500 S. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.