

PhD Graduate Research Assistantship on Modeling of Soil C & Nutrient Cycling

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, invites applications for a Ph.D. graduate research assistant (GRA). The research is on modeling of soil carbon (C) and nutrient cycling in the grazing systems, particularly in the Nebraska Sandhills. The specific objective is to improve existing process-based models by integrating grazing strategies and resource addition to simulate soil C, N and P dynamics and trace gas emissions. The goal is to determine the effect of management intensity of grasslands on beef production systems. Field experiments have and are still collecting a wide range of field measurements for the last three years (<http://agronomy.unl.edu/grazingmanagement>). Many of these measurements will be used to test and revise current models or develop a new model. The GRA will lead in (1) processing of field measurements for testing selected soil C and nutrient cycling models, (2) identifying the strength and weaknesses of the selected models in simulation of C and nutrient cycling in the grazing systems, (3) proposing revisions of model function based on key grazing management factors, and (4) developing a new model based on the strength of the existing models and new findings from the current project and literature. The student will also have the opportunities to gain teaching experience, present and participate at professional scientific meetings. The student will be co-supervised by Dr. Haishun Yang and Dr. Martha Mamo.

Interested applicants should contact Dr. Haishun Yang (hyang2@unl.edu, 402-472-6372), or Dr. Martha Mamo (mmamo3@unl.edu, 402-472-8493) for more information.

Qualifications: M.S. degree with appropriate academic credentials. The qualifying degree must be completed before the GRA start date

PhD Graduate Research Assistantship Stipend: Annual Basis - \$25,980

Tuition Waiver: A tuition waiver of up to 12 credit hours per semester and 12 credit hours during summer sessions is provided with the GRA.

Health Insurance: Students on assistantships are provided health insurance at a reduced rate.

GRA Availability: August, 2016

Application: Formal application for graduate studies is required. Follow the admission instructions at: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/futuregraduate>

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