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Conservation Aide Internship/Volunteer Tasks

Tasks:

- CBLAD (Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department) Soil & Water Quality Conservation plan development:
 - Participate in site visits (beef, dairy, horse, cropland, hayland)
 - Gathering/labeling farm maps
 - Soil sampling
 - RUSLE (erosion) calculations on pasture/hayland
 - Assist w/nutrient mgt plan writing
 - Assist w/BMP (Best Management Practice) design
 - Assembling CBLAD plans
- Recruitment for the VA Agricultural BMP Cost-Share and Tax Credit
- Erosion and Sediment Control site inspection
- Write at least one article for the District quarterly newsletter
- Write at least one press release related to BMPs or programs offered by PWSWCD

Skills & Knowledge Gained:

- Learn basic soil science
- Soil sampling
- Gathering RUSLE (erosion) data
- Basic surveying
- Identifying forages and crops
- Use of maps, aerial photos
- Landowner contact
- Creating maps/designs
- Definition/application of BMPs on farms and construction sites
- Effect of agricultural operations on water quality and soil erosion
- Definition of NPS (Non-Point Source) pollution

- Designation of RPAs (Resource Protection Area) & RMAs (Resource Management Areas)
- History of SWCDs (Soil & Water Conservation District)
- Improve communication skills

Related Fields of Study:

Environmental Science	Biology Geology	Ecology Natural Resource Management
Agronomy	Geography	
Animal Science	Forestry	
Equine Studies	Botany	

Requirements:

- Complete 3 CBLAD Plans w/Assistance
- Participate in 10 farm visits (at least 1 horse, 1 beef and 1 dairy)
- Attend 1 Board meeting
- Attend 1 Partner Agency meetings/training
- Attend 1 Staff Meeting
- Minimum of 25% of total work hours to be spent on field work
- Assist w/1 survey
- Design 3 alternative Grazing Land Protection BMP layouts for one farm
- And explain +/- of each
- Identify and summarize 5 examples of erosion seen on agricultural operations
- Maintain predetermined work schedule (X hours/semester)
- Assist with at least one erosion and sediment control site inspection

Supervision:

Jay Yankey, District Manager

**For more information please contact:
Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District
571.379.7514 or pwsacd@pwsacd.org**