Cropping Systems Agronomist, Assistant Professor of Cropping Systems
Research Centers -- Northern Agricultural Research Center, Havre MT

Search Number 12121-2

Start Date July 1, 2012 or upon successful completion of search process

Appointment Tenure track 1.0 FTE fiscal year appointment (100% AES funding)

Salary Competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Benefits Eligible

Community Information

Founded in 1893 as a Land Grant University, Montana State University (MSU) is composed of eight academic colleges and a graduate school and boasts a friendly, supportive faculty and campus environment. Currently, the University hosts an enrollment of over 14,000 students, including approximately 1,900 graduate students. MSU is classified as one of 108 U.S. Research Universities (very high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation.

MSU is located in Bozeman, Montana, an extended community of about 70,000 nestled in the Rocky Mountains in southwest Montana. In addition to providing access to an extraordinary ecosystem for teaching and research programs, Bozeman is renowned for year-round recreational and cultural opportunities to include access to world class ski areas, multiple blue ribbon trout streams and the Gallatin National Forest. The local airport is served by four national airlines and is the second busiest airport in the state.

Named an All American City, Bozeman boasts high-quality medical facilities, a very low crime rate, many fine restaurants, acclaimed public and private schools, a symphony orchestra and choir, an annual opera, and nationally known events such as the Sweet Pea Festival of the Arts held in early August of each year.

Powder Magazine identified Bozeman, with "three distinctly different" major ski resorts within an hour's drive, as the number one place to live and ski in its November 2010 Magazine. Bizjournals.com ranked Bozeman #2 on the list of American Dreamtowns - small towns that offer the best quality of life without...
metropolitan hassles. The K-12 educational system, growing reputation of Montana State University, and pristine natural environment of the area combine to make Bozeman one of America’s most desirable university towns. Bozeman is located in the beautiful Gallatin Valley, 90 miles north of Yellowstone National Park.

Overview

The Northern Agricultural Research Center consists of 3,000 acres at the main facility with an additional 3,960 acres of grazing land located in the nearby Bear Paw Mountains. The 3,000 acres on the main facility supports both crop and livestock research activities which is distinctly unique to MSU. The research center has recently completed $2.8 million of construction and renovation, including a new $2.1 million office/laboratory complex. The current research center staff consists of three faculty, two operations managers, two master’s level technicians, and eight support personnel. A local advisory board made up of area producers and industry representatives from the five surrounding counties, provides guidance on NARC research priorities. Additional information about the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, the Department of Research Centers and the Northern Agricultural Research Center may be found by accessing MSU's College of Agriculture web page at http://ag.montana.edu/maes.htm.

Duties and Responsibilities

Develop an applied field research program that investigates the integration of cultural practices and input variables to enhance the economic potential and sustainability of crop production systems in north central Montana and throughout the region, with an emphasis on small grain production practices. Research responsibilities include the oversight of the Research Center’s cultivar development/variety test program. Expected to cooperate with other public-sector scientists, extension personnel, farmers, private industry, advisory groups and commodity organizations to develop research priorities and assist in developing management recommendations. Expectations for scholarship include publication in refereed journals and reviewed materials, presentation at scientific and producer meetings, development of extension-related materials, and teaching of discipline-related topics to accommodate student demand. Securing extramural funds from state, regional and national sources, as well as the agricultural industry, is required. 80% Research, 10% Teaching, 10% Service

Required Qualifications

1. Earned Doctorate in Agronomy, Crop Science or Related Discipline.
2. Documented experience in applied cereal cropping systems research under semi-arid conditions.
3. Demonstrated experience in planning, designing and implementing field research, and interpreting research results using accepted, innovative and strategic scientific methodology.
4. Experience effectively communicating, both verbally and in writing, with clientele including students, agricultural producers, extension personnel, industry representatives and scientists.
Preferred Qualifications

1. Documented grant writing experience.
2. Post-doctoral experience in cropping systems research.
3. Experience with small grain production systems under semi-arid conditions typical of the Northern Great Plains region of North America.
4. Established scientific publication record commensurate with training and experience.
5. Experience with small grain breeding and/or cultivar development programs.

The Successful Candidate Will

- Demonstrate the ability to build an innovative, externally-funded small grains field research program.
- Have effective interpersonal skills including the ability to collaborate successfully with diverse groups.
- Possess excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Maintain effective attention to detail, meeting deadlines, and prioritizing multiple projects.

Additional Requirements

In accordance with MSU policy, hiring will be conditional upon successful completion of a pre-employment background check.

1. Position requires working in inclement weather.
2. Must possess or have the ability to obtain a valid Montana driver’s license.
3. Must possess or have the ability to obtain a Montana Government Pesticide Applicator License.
4. Position requires the ability to lift on a seasonal basis 60 pounds with or without accommodation.

Application Deadline

Screening of applications will begin on March 26, 2012 and will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- (1) a letter of application describing how their training, expertise, and talents uniquely qualify them to fulfill the required and preferred qualifications for this position, and
- (2) a current resume or curriculum vitae, and
- (3) transcripts of all university academic work, and
- (4) the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of three current professional references.

Missing materials and information may not be requested and may result in your application not being considered for the position.

Applications submitted by facsimile or electronic mail will not be accepted.

- Submit hard copy application, by mail, with a CD containing electronic versions (.pdf) of all required documentation to:
  - Dr. Darrin L. Boss
  - Cropping Systems Agronomist Search Committee
  - Northern Agricultural Research Center
  - Montana State University
In order to receive Veterans Preference during the application review process, it is highly recommended that the required forms are included at the time you submit your application materials. Click here for the forms and information regarding Veterans Preference. Important note: Your preference form is submitted to a different location than your application materials. A DD214 is not a required document.

Posted 1/12/12 extended screen date; 1/10/12 revisions to salary and app proc jh; 1/4/12 ank

Montana State University is committed to continually supporting, promoting and building an inclusive and culturally diverse campus environment and strongly encourages applications from female and minority candidates.

Montana State University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer and educational institution. As such, the University does not discriminate in the admission, access to or conduct of its educational programs and activities nor in its employment policies and practices on the basis of race, color, national origin (ancestry), sex, sexual preference/orientation, marital or parental status, age, creed, religion or political belief, mental or physical disability or status as a veteran. As a commitment toward the University's mission to be inclusive and diverse, applications from qualified minorities, women and persons with disabilities are highly encouraged. Montana State University makes accommodation for any known disability that may interfere with an applicant's ability to compete in the hiring process or an employee's ability to perform the duties of the job. In compliance with the Montana Veteran's Employment Preference Act, MSU provides preference in employment to veterans, disabled veterans, and certain eligible relatives of veterans. To claim veteran's preference or request accommodation, contact Human Resources/Affirmative Action, P.O. Box 172430, Montana State University, Bozeman MT 59717-2430; 406-994-2042; hraa@montana.edu

MSU's Affirmative Action Non-Discrimination Policy and Procedures can be located on the MSU Website: www2.montana.edu/policy/affirmative_action/