

Research Assistant in Agro-ecology & Climate Change Mitigation

Job Title: Student Research Assistant

Work location: On-site at Beaverlodge Research Farm

Position duration: 4 to 12 months (Summer and Fall 2026, and winter 2027)

Salary range: \$18.84 to \$31.69 per hour (commensurate as per education level and experience)

Work hour: 37.5 hours per week, over time paid at standard government rate.

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Application Deadline: as soon as possible (till the position filled).

Job Description:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Beaverlodge Research Farm is conducting the Peace Region Living Lab Project in collaboration with a cohort of Applied Research Associations (ARAs) those primarily work with beef, grain, and forage/forage seed producers. We are seeking a detail-oriented and motivated student to join our team as a Research Assistant. The work will involve both field and lab components; you will gain experience in collection of soil, plant, and greenhouse gas (GHG) samples and related data; sample processing; data logger programming and maintenance; organization and processing of field samples, and much more.

The successful candidate will:

- Assist Research Program staffs with operational activities from field to lab including working with farmers to collect and process plant, soil and gaseous samples, data collection and compilation,
- Monitor GHG (particularly N₂O) emissions from a sub-set of sites,
- Collect farm management data to help understand the potential to reduce fertilizer N use,
- Collect additional field data to validate and verify remote sensing tools for monitoring BMP adoption and farm productivity,
- Participate in the orientation and training as required for safe and efficient undertaking of the tasks,
- Participate in group meetings and program discussions as asked by the supervisor.

This job requires travelling (driving ½ or ¾ ton truck) and visiting farms at the BC and AB Peace region, following government and farmer protocols and safety requirements. Under a range of field conditions, walking across fields or farmyards to collect samples or make observations. Operating manual and hydraulic soil samplers, installing sampling chambers and operating mobile GHG analyzer while taking associated soil measurements such as temperature and moisture; communicating clearly and respectfully with farmers under all situations and keeping notes of farmer information, working independently with little direct supervision under some physically strenuous conditions such as in walking on uneven terrain, bending to collect field samples, lifting up to 20 kg for short periods and similarly manipulating equipment, strictly following all safety protocols. The incumbent should also collaborate closely with scientists and ARA staffs, and keeping records and report anomalies and problems.

Qualifications:

- Students in the field of relevant science - Agriculture, Soil Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Environmental Sciences; Environmental Chemistry; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

- Enthusiasm for agro-ecology, climate change mitigation, farm nutrient budgeting, and GHG emissions.
- Experience with or willingness for field work or being outdoors.
- Possessing or willingness to develop lab analytical lab procedures.
- Valid full driver's license holder (NOT "L" or "N")

About Us:

The Beaverlodge Research Farm is located at 100038 Township Road 720 and can be accessed easily by turning west off Hwy 43 at Beaverlodge. It is the northernmost research facility of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and spans 320 hectares of farmland dedicated to agricultural research. Established in 1917, it now operates under the Science and Technology Branch of AAFC. The Farm employs 22 full-time staff, including scientists, biologists, technical support, and administrative personnel. It hosts five research programs: Insect Pest Management, Agronomy and Crop Adaptation, Integrated Forage Crop Management, Apiculture and Honeybee Health, Bee Omics and Pollination, and Soil Health and Fertility Development. The site also houses the Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP)'s National Bee Diagnostic Centre, collaborating closely with AAFC's Apiculture program.
