Job Title:	Conservation Agronomist	Job Category:	Technical/Field
Department:	All	Travel Required:	Yes
Location:	Hanford, CA	Position Type:	Full time
Level/Salary Range:	Dependent upon qualifications	Date posted:	09/2022

#### **Applications Accepted By:**

Email: kverdegaal@innovativeag.net

Mail: Innovative Ag Services, Attn: Kelly Verdegaal, 1201 Delta View Road, Suite 5, Hanford, CA 93230

**Subject Line:** Conservation Agronomist

### **COMPANY DESCRIPTION:**

Innovative Ag Services, LLC is an agriculture consulting company that provides a wide array of professional services to an industry that is becoming increasingly regulated and complex. At the core of this business are qualified professionals that are experienced, educated, and accredited within their expertise who work with agricultural producers to improve their bottom line. Each professional at Innovative Ag Services, LLC provides specific talents and skills that assist the variety of needs in the industry. There is clearly strength in numbers and diversity as each professional at Innovative Ag Services, LLC works together to meet the diverse demands of the industry.

# **JOB DESCRIPTION:**

The Conservation Agronomist will provide professional agronomic services directly to growers of the San Joaquin Valley as they take steps to improve their sustainability and meet regenerative goals/mandates. As such, the Conservation Agronomist will need to be well versed in sustainable and regenerative practices and be familiar with the cropping production systems of the San Joaquin Valley.

This individual must be well versed in the USDA-NRCS conservation practices that are applicable to the San Joaquin Valley and he or she should have a current NRCS —Technical Service Provider (TSP) accreditation or can secure such quickly. Many of these practices include cover crops, reduced tillage, no-till, compost use, nutrient management, precision agriculture, pollinator habitat, integrated pest management, and irrigation management.

This individual must be well versed in a wide array of agronomic issues to meet the diverse needs of our clients and the dynamic nature of conservation practices, including having knowledge and/or experience in working with: Calcareous Soils, Water Holding Capacity, Cation Exchange Capacity, Alkaline/Acidic Soils, Nitrogen Cycle, Evapotranspiration Rates, Exchangeable Sodium Percentage, Amendments, Saline-Sodic Soil Types, Soil Permeability, Sodium Absorption Ratio, Micronutrients, Macro-Nutrients and other technical aspects of agronomy.

Many of our agronomic services are provided in conjunction with regulatory compliance services associated with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) Waste Discharge requirements. The Conservation Agronomist must show a commanding understanding and ability to guide clients through the different aspects of these regulations, including the Monitoring and Reporting Program, Prohibitions, Schedule of

Tasks, Land Application Specifications, and general understanding of the authority the RWQCB has over the industry and our clients. Many of our grower's conservation efforts are monetized through soil carbon credits, and as such this individual should have a general understanding of the developing and exciting new field that will have lasting impacts. This is a very specialized role, and Innovative Ag will provide the necessary training, where applicable.

The Conservation Agronomist will be entrusted with a great deal of responsibility, as our clients demand professional representation and consultation on the agronomic and environmental issues facing their agricultural operation. The effectiveness and success of this position will be instrumental in the success of Innovative Ag Services, LLC. The compensation package for this demanding job will reflect such.

## **JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### **Special Projects**

- Lead Compliance Services for municipalities, food processing facilities, anaerobic digesters, and other specified individual Waste Discharge Requirements
- Evaluate and report on eminent domain projects, such as the proposed High-Speed Rail
- General agronomy projects
- Expert witness testimonies

# **QUALIFICATIONS & EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:**

#### Minimum requirements

- A Bachelor's of Science in a related field
- 3-5 years of Experience
- Certified Crop Advisor accreditation
- Proven and uncompromising integrity
- Attentive to details
- Accountability and results focused
- Effective public and personal communicator

#### The following qualities will be highly valued in Conservation Agronomist

- Leadership skills and experience
- 10 years preferred experience in the agriculture or environmental field
- A Master's Degree in the agricultural or environmental field
- Certified Professional Agronomist or Certified Soil Scientist
- A desire and ability to develop additional professional services at Innovative Ag Services, LLC