Open Postdoctoral Scholar Position
Specializing in Plant and Soil Nutrient Dynamics
-Utilization of Biochar in Organic Blueberry Production-

Position Summary
Applications are invited for a 12-month, full-time (1.0 FTE) postdoctoral scholar position at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC) at Oregon State University (OSU). The successful applicant will focus on soil chemical processes as they relate to nutrient dynamics in organic blueberry systems. Specifically, the incumbent will work independently to conduct and manage a laboratory and field-based research program that works with regional stakeholders and other researchers to develop a cost-effective biochar soil amendment for organically produced northern highbush blueberry in eastern Oregon and Washington. Soil and plant nutrient relations with emphasis on field research will be the focus of this position.

Applications are being accepted until September 1st, 2020 with an anticipated start date soon thereafter. The position is funded for a 2-year period. Evaluation of the candidate will occur on a yearly basis by the project principal directors.

Stipend and benefits conform with postdoctoral scholar standards at OSU. More information about postdoctoral scholar appointments at OSU can be found at http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/postdocs.

Position Duties
Duties will include, but not limited to:

65% Research
- Designing, implementing, and managing research activities at field sites.
- Maintaining the field site as needed (irrigation, fertilizer/pesticide applications, weeding, mowing, pruning).
- Evaluating soil structure, infiltration, and water holding capacity.
- Soil and tissue sample collection.
- Laboratory processing and analysis of samples.
- Processing, analyzing, and reporting on findings.

15% Extension
- Working with regional producers to identify current practices and opportunities for cooperative efforts.
- Dissemination of findings regionally and nationally through oral presentations.
- Producing extension publications and nutrient management recommendations.
**15% Scholarship**
- Publish research results as lead or co-author in peer-reviewed journals and other publications, as appropriate. Present results to peers and/or industry at local, national, and international meetings.

**5% Supervision**
- Plan, assign, and approve daily duties for undergraduate, graduate student research assistants, and laboratory technicians.

**Minimum Required Qualifications**
- Ph.D. in horticulture, agronomy, soil science, or a closely related field of study.
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to scholarly activity through refereed journals and presentations at scientific meetings.
- Demonstrated experience in field research.
- Proficiency with fundamental laboratory techniques.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate and work within a team structure.
- Ability to work independently in diverse environmental conditions.

**Preferred Qualifications**
- Experience in conducting applied research.
- Experience with statistical methods.
- Familiarity with sensing and monitoring instrumentation to track nutrient parameters in the soil and plant environment.
- Experience working at an off-campus research station.
- Ability to work with diverse faculty, students, industry clientele, and stakeholders.
- A demonstrable commitment to diversity and inclusiveness.

**Working Conditions/Work Schedule**
- Research will be conducted at OSU HAREC and potentially at grower-collaborator field sites that will require travel using an OSU vehicle.
- Work may require lifting, pushing, or pulling up to 50 lbs.
- Tasks will require work outdoors in all weather conditions for extended periods.
- Must be able to walk on uneven terrain.
- Non-standard hours may be required during peak times of the field season.

**How to Apply**
Email application containing PDF documents of the following materials to: Dr. Scott Lukas at scott.lukas@oregonstate.edu
1) Cover Letter
2) CV/Resume
3) Unofficial graduate transcripts
4) Names and contact information for at least three professional references
5) Brief writing sample

For full consideration, apply before September 1st, 2020. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

Please direct questions about this position to scott.lukas@oregonstate.edu

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