

Approved -
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Research Social Scientist or Research Ecologist
Salary Range: \$73,889 to \$96,053
GS-11

Postdoctoral Research in Sustainability Implications of Northeastern Dairy Land Use Transitions

Food Systems Research Unit
Burlington, VT

The USDA Agricultural Research Service seeks a postdoctoral researcher with an interest in the drivers and impacts of agricultural land use transitions to work in the Food Systems Research Unit in Burlington, VT. The incumbent will work with Research Social Scientist, Dr. Courtney Hammond Wagner, in support of the unit's research on the contribution of regional food systems to environmental sustainability, economic viability, and improved nutrition.

A goal of Dr. Hammond Wagner's research program is to better understand the relationship between social, economic, and environmental trends and agricultural land use in the northeastern United States. To this end, the incumbent will plan and conduct data collection, geospatial modeling, and statistical analysis to characterize land use trends related to the northeast dairy industry and identify impacts and opportunities of dairy land use transitions for regional production, local economies, and food access. The incumbent will collect and combine existing geospatial, land use, and other social, economic, and environmental datasets to investigate 1) spatial trends in dairy land use transitions and 2) social and environmental metrics related to these land use transitions, including availability of conservation assistance, population growth, and regional dairy consumption.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in natural resources, geography, environmental science, environmental social science, ecology, food systems or a related field. Knowledge of database management, data wrangling, ArcGIS or other spatial analysis programs, programming in R or other relevant computational methods is highly desirable. The incumbent will be expected to prepare manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and to present at scientific meetings.

This is a 13-month position renewable for up to three years, contingent upon funding and satisfactory performance. The position is available immediately.

To apply, send a CV and a covering letter explaining your interest in the position to Dr. Hammond Wagner (Courtney.HammondWagner@usda.gov) by April 25, 2024. Applications will continue to be considered until the position is filled. U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents seeing U.S. Citizenship may apply.

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