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## Seeking research assistants

We are seeking qualified individuals to support research on **ecosystem services from agriculture and performance-based soil health incentive programs** in Vermont.

The University of Vermont Extension and Gund Institute for Environment are conducting research to support the development of a payment for ecosystem services program by the state of Vermont's multi-stakeholder **Payment for Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group**. We anticipate either hiring or two individuals with a combination of complementary skills in part-time positions, or one person in a near full-time capacity

### Desired competencies and experience:

- Familiarity with current issues in Vermont agriculture, agricultural policy, conservation programs, and payment for ecosystem service programs
- Design, implementation and analysis of surveys and focus groups
- Experience with literature reviews and academic writing
- Communication and research with farmers and the broader agricultural community
- Understanding of agronomy, ecology, agroecology, or agroecosystem models.

### The research assistant(s) will support the following tasks in collaboration with our team:

- Research and synthesis of information from diverse sources on performance-based PES programs
- Research and synthesis of approaches to whole-farm agroecosystem modeling
- Interviews with experts and program administrators
- Qualitative data analysis
- Conduct surveys and focus groups with Vermont farmers
- Development of examples and scenarios to illustrate the supply of ecosystem services from Vermont farms
- Preparation of reports and briefs for diverse readership audience

### Expectations and time commitment:

- 10-30 hours per week, depending on applicant pool
- Funding for these positions is short-term, and project-based.
- Start date is expected to be early September, as soon as paperwork allows.
- This project ends in early 2022
- This work arrangement is expected to be remote.

### Compensation:

- Hourly. \$20/hour or commensurate with experience.

**Questions?** Contact Heather Darby & Alissa White: [Alissa.white@uvm.edu](mailto:Alissa.white@uvm.edu) , [Heather.darby@uvm.edu](mailto:Heather.darby@uvm.edu)

**To apply:** Please send a resume or CV with cover letter and 2 references to [Alissa.white@uvm.edu](mailto:Alissa.white@uvm.edu) and [Heather.darby@uvm.edu](mailto:Heather.darby@uvm.edu) with "PES research job" in the subject line.