

## **2019 Research Assistant Summer Position with Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture (ATTTA) based at Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc., in Truro, NS**

ATTTA is looking for one research assistant to work with our summer research projects for 2019 (May- August)

### ***What is Perennia:***

Perennia is a not-for-profit corporation with the mission to help farmers, fishermen and food processors be prosperous and profitable. We have a flexible business model that is a hybrid of funding from the Government of Nova Scotia with more than half our annual budget derived from consulting services and special projects. We have a team of more than 30 specialists which makes us one of most comprehensive and wide-ranging teams focused on development of the agri-food sector in the Atlantic region. The company is comprised of four divisions: Extension and Advisory Services; Quality and Food Safety; Seafood Services and Product Development and Commercialization. Our teams work with clients to address production issues on farm, help them create internationally recognized quality and food safety programs, assist them by offering leased incubation space for new product development, and work with them to conduct research to transform underutilized land- and marine-based bioresources into high-value products like nutraceuticals, functional ingredients and non-food based bioproducts.

### ***What is ATTTA:***

ATTTA is a research and extension based program that works to enhance the honey bee industry for wild blueberry pollination throughout the Maritimes.

For more information, see our website at <http://www.perennia.ca/portfolio-items/honey-bees/>

### ***ATTTA Research Assistant:***

One position will be available based out of the Truro office located at 199 Dr. Bernie MacDonald Drive. The research assistant will work with ATTTA's two apiculturists in conducting applied and on-farm research trials, and lab work. Data collection, working honey bee hives, and processing samples in the lab will be regular tasks. The successful candidate will work with honey bee hives and wild blueberries under supervision of the two apiculturists. The research assistant may also be asked to assist with other Perennia projects from time to time if required.

This position will require regular travel throughout Nova Scotia and the Maritimes for research projects. Travel expenses will be reimbursed. Early mornings, late afternoons, and occasional weekend work is expected from time to time.

Duration: The 4-month position will start May 6th and end August 30th, 2019.

Rate of Pay: \$15.00 per hour

Work Week: 37.5 hours per week; some flexibility in working hours required

Program(s) of Study: Bachelor of Science (Agriculture, Biology, Environmental Sciences)

Supervisors: Robyn McCallum, PhD, PAg and Sawyer Olmstead, MSc Candidate

***Job Requirements:***

The research assistant will primarily be involved in setting up field trials, and collecting data from fields and honey bee hives. This may require the ability to lift up to 50 lbs from time to time, as well as kneeling, bending, carrying supplies etc. The research assistant may be required to work with, or help with, the application of pest control products under appropriate supervision. The work could include assisting with tours at demonstration sites, performing literature searches, and assisting with written documents such as fact sheets. Access to a vehicle will be a requirement and the successful individual must be willing to live in the Truro area for the work term. The successful applicant must be a self-starter and able to work independently. Successful candidates must be adaptable and able to adjust to different working styles. An agriculture, biology, or environmental science interest or background would be an asset but is not a prerequisite. Previous experience with handling honey bee hives is an asset. Previous work experience in proximity to bees (e.g. crop scouting, harvesting) would also be considered an asset. Previous study in bee biology or entomology would be advantageous. The successful candidate will be properly trained in handling honey bee hives and will be provided with protective gear (e.g. beekeeping suit).

***Work-term Outcomes:***

Through the work term, the student will gain practical experience in the following areas:

- A broader understanding of the Maritimes beekeeping and wild blueberry sectors
- Become familiar with the methods, constraints and challenges of conducting applied research projects in uncontrolled environments
- Understanding the issues facing honey bee management
- Accurately managing and entering research data

***How to Apply:***

Please send a combined resume and cover letter to the attention of Robyn McCallum at [rmccallum@perennia.ca](mailto:rmccallum@perennia.ca)

***Deadline to Apply:***

March 1, 2019