



Perennia Food & Agriculture

2019 Summer Student

Aphid Research Assistant Position

Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. offers on-farm production expertise, food safety and value-added product development services to the agricultural, seafood and food processing enterprises in Atlantic Canada. Our highly skilled and collaborative team focuses on superior customer service, proactive solutions and innovative approaches to meet client needs. To assist in this effort, we are seeking a Student to fill the Aphid Research Assistant Summer Position.

The research assistant will work on the provincial strawberry aphid monitoring program under the supervision of our research technician. Regular tasks will include weekly field sampling in the Kings and Annapolis County, as well as insect identification, data management, and communication with producers. Assisting with field research projects on other crops (including vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, and field crops) may be required at key times in the season. Project work will require extended periods of time outdoors as well as data entry and research preparation as needed.

Though the position is based out of the Kentville Research and Development Centre, regular travel within the Annapolis Valley will be required with travel expenses reimbursed. Early mornings, late afternoons and occasional weekend work is expected from time to time.

Job Requirements:

The research assistant will primarily be involved in weekly field sampling in strawberry fields. The research assistant will be responsible for setting up, maintaining, and collecting insect traps in designated locations in the Annapolis Valley. The student will work in a laboratory setting to identify the collected insects and leaf samples. This may require the ability to lift up to 20 kg 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 Annapolis Valley 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 or plant production interest or background would be an asset but is not a prerequisite.

Work-term Outcomes:

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

- A broader understanding of the Nova Scotia agriculture industry through applied research.
- Become familiar with the methods, constraints and challenges of conducting applied research projects in uncontrolled environments.
- Understanding the issues facing agriculture in Nova Scotia (ie. pests, diseases, markets etc.).
- Accurately managing and entering research data.

Education Level: Minimum completion of second year of study

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

Rate of Pay: \$15.00 per hour

Work Week: 35 hours per week; some flexibility in working hours required

Program(s) of Study: B. Science (Agriculture, Environmental Science, Biology)

To apply for this position at Perennia, please email a combined PDF or Word cover letter to Caitlin Congdon. ccongdon@perennia.ca by **February 22th, 2019**.

Only those granted interviews will be contacted. For more information about Perennia visit their website at www.perennia.ca

Perennia is an equal opportunity employer