

Agriculture Technical Development Specialist

Perennia's mission is to support growth, transformation and economic development in Nova Scotia's agriculture, seafood, and food and beverage sectors. We are looking for a talented, innovative professional with an understanding and expertise in on-farm technology utilization to work collaboratively with team members and growers to gain insights and validate scientific tools. Our team is composed of industry experts, scientists, and talented field staff. The environment is extremely engaging and fast-paced, with specialists coming together to provide the best possible advice and support to our clients.

Perennia has an opening for a full-time **Agriculture Technical Development Specialist** in our Agriculture Services Division, starting immediately. Reporting to the Manager of Horticulture, the **Agriculture Technical Development Specialist** will be expected to develop and implement a comprehensive outreach and extension program, assist in planning research protocols, execute large scale field research activities, and maintain a working relationship with grower cooperators. The candidate will work with cross-functional teams within Perennia to set up, evaluate and troubleshoot new data capture platforms, as well as conduct feasibility assessments and provide input on improvement opportunities. This position will be based out of our Kentville office but will be working in a hybrid work situation (home-office-field) and responsible for working with team members and client's province-wide.

The primary focus for this position is transferring in-field technology to farmers relating to agronomic data utilization, agronomy, training, and ongoing mainstreaming of new agriculture technology and digital solutions. Having a solid understanding of how technology can be used on farm to improve productivity, enhance competitiveness, and create new opportunities is integral to this position. The successful candidate must have the ability to develop successful relationships with producers, industry associations and government is essential, as well as excellent organizational, interpersonal, communication, facilitation, and time management skills.

Responsibilities will include:

- Identify and promote a wide range of technologies for Nova Scotia farmers and specific adaptations that meet their needs related to climate and crop management
- Participate in and/or lead research field trials identified as priorities by industry
- Act as a training specialist to growers to ensure they are confident in their use of the equipment and software
- Support broad adoption of agricultural technologies, and assist to promote selected technologies for commercial development, scaling and adoption.
- Process and analyze relevant on-farm data

- Participate in provincial working groups and committees
- Oversee maintenance and repairs of equipment at research farms to ensure field readiness

In order to excel at this position, the successful applicant will have:

- A specialized degree in Agronomy, Precision Agriculture, or a closely related discipline
- Minimum of five years' professional experience that demonstrates the ability to conduct high quality field research and deliver an extension program
- Experience collaborating across multi-functional groups and geographies
- Experience in project management
- Experience with basic geographic information systems (GIS), GPS systems, variable rate technology, or mapping software
- A history of working with high tech hardware and software, with the proven ability to coach others to use both to maximize effectiveness
- Experience in technology-based knowledge transfer to the agriculture industry would be an asset with demonstrated experience or aptitude in blogs, videos, podcasts and/or webinars
- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills, and ease with all Microsoft Office applications, and an interest in webinars, podcasts and online content development
- A member or eligible for P.Ag. status with the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrology.

This role will be an excellent opportunity for a professional with a strong independent, positive, and collaborative work ethic, who wants to apply their skills on a wide variety of products in a client-focused environment. Perennia offers a competitive compensation package based on the candidate's skill and experience. This includes base salary, benefits, employer matching RRSP plan, personal days and three weeks' vacation to start.

To apply for this exciting new position at Perennia, please email a resume and cover letter (combined in one PDF or Word document) noting compensation expectations, to Janice MacMullin, HR Manager, at hr@perennia.ca by noon on Monday, **June 28, 2021**.

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