Internship Details

Timeframe: February 1, 2018—May 31, 2018 (possible extension)
Availability: 1 position, 10-20 hours/week, wet weather dependent
Compensation: $15/hour plus credits
Supervisors: Scarlett Graham, M.S. Research Specialist
Nichole Embertson, Ph.D. Nutrient Management Specialist

Internship Activities

Intern will work with WCD in monitoring the impacts of conservation practices on water quality in Whatcom County. Duties include:

- Conducting water quality sampling activities at edge of field stations
- Maintaining field and laboratory equipment
- Performing data analysis, quality control & assessment
- Reporting findings to landowners

Project Background

In Whatcom County, a large amount of attention has been put on agriculture as a leading contributor of nutrients and fecal coliform to surface water via runoff from manure applied to crop fields. The Whatcom Conservation District, as part of Discovery Farms, has partnered with dairy farmers in Whatcom County to install edge of field monitoring stations and look at how different management practices affect runoff and subsequent surface water quality. The monitoring stations can record data about rainfall, soil moisture, and runoff volume and can be programmed to collect water samples for lab analysis. All of this information is used to better understand the impacts of conservation practices on water quality. During this internship, the student will interact with WCD staff to learn about water quality, field data collection, local agriculture, and real-world farm land use practices.

Qualifications

- Interest and experience in environmental science, agriculture, and field data collection
- Flexible schedule to work around wet weather/runoff events
- Vehicle for transportation to Lynden, WA
- Self motivated and can work independently
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to interact with a wide variety of individuals
- Strong computer and technology skills
- Undergraduate & Graduate students and recently graduated can apply

How to Apply

Send the following to sgraham@whatcomcd.org RE: Edge of Field Internship, by January 7, 2018

1. Cover letter that addresses your availability, interest and qualifications
2. Current resume with contact information
3. List of names and contact information for three professional references

For more information on Whatcom Conservation District visit: www.whatcomcd.org