Place-based Phosphorus Management
PhD and Masters Positions

We are currently recruiting one or more graduate students (PhD and Masters) to join our team on agricultural phosphorus management.

About the opportunity:

Prairie agriculture is facing dual challenges with phosphorus deficiency in many soils that reduces yield potential, and phosphorus surplus and/or stratification in other soils that elevates environmental P loss and contributes to worsening eutrophication issues in lakes and reservoirs. These dual challenges highlight the urgent need for pragmatic solutions including better soil phosphorus management to increase agricultural productivity, while minimizing phosphorus loss from agricultural land. Specific goals of our new project include assessing variation in soil test phosphorus and spatial yield patterns, understanding risk of phosphorus runoff in hydrologically active areas, and understanding the potential benefits of place-based phosphorus management in supporting agronomic and water quality goals. Ideal candidates will have skills in data management, data analysis, field and/or lab work, and a degree in soil science, plant science or agronomy.

About the team:

Our work bridges soil science to agronomy and water quality, and includes multiple investigators including in government, two universities, along with industry partners and international collaborators. The successful applicant will work in a team environment engaging with investigators Drs. Jeff Schoenau, Jane Elliott, Melissa Arcand, David Lobb, Jian Liu, and Helen Baulch through their studies, along with producers, technical staff, and postdoctoral fellows. The successful applicant will be able to identify a supervisor or co-supervisors from the team and associated academic unit that best suits their career goals.

To apply:

Please submit an expression of interest, which includes a CV, set of transcripts (unofficial transcripts are fine), along with a maximum two-page cover email or cover letter that discusses your interest in the project and skills/training. Once suitable candidate(s) are selected, you will be asked to apply to the graduate program. Review of applicants will start June 1, 2022, but the positions will remain open until filled. The successful candidate(s) could start in Sept 2022 or later, and a competitive stipend is available. Expressions of interest or questions regarding the positions should be emailed to: helen.baulch@usask.ca, katy.nugent@usask.ca and cjh252@mail.usask.ca with the subject 'Graduate studies: Place-based Phosphorus Management' in the subject line.

Location:

The University of Saskatchewan (www.usask.ca) is located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – a city located on the shores of the South Saskatchewan River. Saskatoon has a range of arts, sports, leisure, and outdoor activities. The University of Saskatchewan is a research-intensive U15 university, with strengths in agricultural research and water research, which constitute two if its signature areas. Saskatoon is in the Canadian prairies, a region known for its agricultural productivity.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, and Indigenization. We encourage applications who can contribute to the diversity of our groups, and universities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. We are committed to providing accommodations to those with a disability or medical necessity. If you require an accommodation in order to participate in the recruitment process, please notify us and we will work together on the accommodation request.

Treaty acknowledgement:

The University of Saskatchewan's main campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.