POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT #00014639
REQUISITION #493344

Title: Assistant Professor in Soil Microbiology

Location: North Florida Research and Education Center
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Quincy, Florida

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Review Date: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit additional materials by November 6, 2015. The position will open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

Duties and Responsibilities
This is a 12-month tenure-accruing Assistant Professor position that has a 70% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 30% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service) appointment, located at the Quincy campus of the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC), Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. Tenure will accrue in Soil and Water Sciences Department. The incumbent will develop an integrated, field and laboratory-based Research and Extension program in Soil Microbiology, with emphasis on phytobiomes as indicators of plant stress related disease and to support sustainable crop production. Use of multi-species transcriptomics and metabolomics, along with other molecular approaches are encouraged for understanding plant-microbe interactions and thereby help develop stress management strategies as a preventative measure to the expression of disease. It is expected that the successful candidate will develop an internationally recognized program while meeting the specific needs of the region. The successful candidate will function as part of an interdisciplinary team at NFREC that include expertise in agronomy, entomology, plant pathology, and soil science. The faculty member will also be expected to interact with scientists at other units, as needed. Through Extension, the faculty member will use the team environment to help relate relevant findings towards sustainable/integrated cropping systems and related research in agronomy, horticulture, phytopathology, weed and pest management, and emerging crops and forages. The faculty member will actively seek contract and grant funding to support

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his/her program. The successful candidate will participate in undergraduate and graduate education by chairing and serving on graduate committees, supervising thesis, dissertation and undergraduate research, and publishing research results with students. Faculty are encouraged to participate in professional development activities related to teaching and advising and may teach courses. As part of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty are expected to support and engage in all three mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignments specified in the position description.

**Qualifications**
A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in Soil Science, Microbiology or a closely related discipline is required. Postdoctoral experience is desirable. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability. Candidates must desire to participate in a strong, interdisciplinary team environment.

**Background Information:**
The North Florida Research & Education Center (NFREC) ([http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)) is one of the largest and most diverse off-campus units of UF/IFAS, consisting of research and education campuses in Quincy and Marianna, Florida. The Quincy campus is a 1,021-acre research and education facility located in the Big Bend Region of Florida. NFREC has 19 faculty members, including this position, representing 10 academic units (forestry, wildlife conservation, environmental horticulture, horticulture, soil and water science, animal science, agronomy, entomology, plant pathology and interdisciplinary ecology). Research programs are collaborative, with a system-based focus on cropping systems, beef/forage production systems, plant breeding systems, specialty crop systems and natural resource management systems. The NFREC faculty members are stationed at either the Quincy campus (14 faculty) or the Marianna campus (5 faculty), which are 40 miles apart. Faculty members commonly use facilities at both campuses. NFREC is characterized by a dynamic population of post-doctoral associates, graduate students, scientific, farm, and administrative staff. This diversity of faculty, staff and programs provides a unique setting for transdisciplinary research that ties the NFREC with faculty on the main UF campus, faculty at other Research and Education Centers around the state, as well as local state (Florida State University and Florida A&M University) and regional (Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi) universities.

The University of Florida ([http://www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu)) is a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, and Space-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 50,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences ([http://ifas.ufl.edu](http://ifas.ufl.edu)) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences ([http://cals.ufl.edu](http://cals.ufl.edu)), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station ([http://research.ifas.ufl.edu](http://research.ifas.ufl.edu)), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service ([http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu](http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu)), the College of Veterinary Medicine ([http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu)), the Florida Sea Grant program ([http://www.flseagrant.org/](http://www.flseagrant.org/)), and encompasses 18 on-campus academic departments and schools, 12 Research and Educational Centers (REC) located

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throughout the state, 6 Research sites/demonstration units administered by RECs or academic departments, and Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties (counties operate and maintain). The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 2,500 people, which includes approximately 900 faculty and 1,200 support personnel, located in Gainesville and throughout the state. FAS, one of the nation’s largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. The University of Florida also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

**Employment Conditions**
This position is available as soon as a suitable candidate is found and will be filled as soon as that candidate is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

**Nominations**
Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:

Please refer to Requisition #493344

*Dr. Cheryl Mackowiak*
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida

*North Florida Research and Education Center*
*155 Research Road*
*Quincy, FL 32351*

Telephone: 850-875-7126
Electronic Mail: echo13@ufl.edu

**Application Information**

- Individuals wishing to apply should go online to [https://jobs.ufl.edu](https://jobs.ufl.edu) and submit:
  - Application
  - Cover letter that states applicant’s interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
  - Curriculum vitae

- Official transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree and three letters of recommendation should be sent to:

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The successful candidate will be required to provide an official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at http://www.naces.org/.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida’s ‘Government in the Sunshine’ and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.