Master of Science in Forestry Graduate Assistantship Available

**Position:** The University of Kentucky’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources seeks a M.S. student for a graduate assistantship beginning in July 2020 that would focus on biological assessments of site and tree factors controlling maple sap volume production and sugar content, and economic analysis in Kentucky.

**Project Description:** The research has two components: biological and economic. The biological component will seek to establish a sampling network in Kentucky that will facilitate development of a model for quantifying the effect of local climate patterns, site conditions, maple species, tree size, and growing space characteristics on maple sap volume production and sugar content. The economic component will entail on-farm cost-benefit analysis of maple syrup production and assess energy conservation-dehydration measures of sap from sugar producing trees to establish cost-effective ways to save energy and maximize returns for producers. This graduate opportunity will provide the candidate with an understanding of Kentucky’s maple syrup production potential as a viable economic venture for rural forestland owners.

**Qualifications:** Position requires a B.S. in forestry, ecology, environmental science, or related field. A strong work ethic and ability to work independently and as part of a team are essential. Preferred academic qualifications include undergraduate GPA > 3.0 and GRE scores of at least 297 (combined verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning scores). Strong quantitative skills and some experience using statistical software packages (e.g., R programming language) are also preferred. A valid U.S. driver license with at least 5 years of clean record is required.

**Funding and Stipend:** This project is supported by funding from USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant. A two-year assistantship would include annual stipend of $17,000, tuition, and health benefits.

**Contacts:** Interested prospective candidates who meet minimum qualifications above should contact Dr. Thomas Ochuodho (thomas.ochuodho@uky.edu, 859-257-1770) or Dr. John Lhotka (john.lhotka@uky.edu, 859-257-9701). Details about the graduate program are available at: http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/forestry-graduate-program. Details of the application process are available at http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/forest-and-natural-resource-sciences-graduate-program. Graduate Student Resources are available at https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/graduate-student-resources. Applications will be accepted until final candidate is selected.

**Location:** The Department of Forestry and Natural Resources is one of the 14 departments within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at University of Kentucky. University of Kentucky is a land grant institution with an enrollment of over 30,000 students and is located in Lexington, central Kentucky and about 76 miles east of Louisville, Kentucky and 80 miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio.