



Graduate Student (M.Sc.) Position Available

Advisor: Dr. Laura L. Van Eerd

Location: University of Guelph at Ridgetown and Guelph Campuses

Project: Influence of inbred vigour on nitrogen fertilizer requirement and risk of environmental loss.

In the seed corn industry there is considerable variation in inbred vigor in terms of seed yield and quality (seed size, cob size, number of kernels per cob etc.) and also plant morphology such as plant height and leaf area. But little is known about N requirement or N content among inbreds with different vigour. Thus, this project will look at industry extremes, so called 'strong and weak' inbreds, to determine if they require different rates of nitrogen fertilizer. If this research shows a difference in N requirements, then growers may be able to adjust N rates accordingly without affecting yields or quality and in some instances lowering input costs. As well, this research has an environmental focus of assessing the risk of N losses from the field. The seed corn industry is very involved in this project with funding and research cooperation from both producers and seed companies.

Stipend: \$17,000 per year for two years.

Qualifications: As well as meeting university qualifications (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/graduatestudies/index.cfm>), applicants must hold a Honours Bachelor's degree in either Soil Science / Agriculture / Environmental Science or related science. Keen interest in the project and experience in research (undergraduate project) and/or field studies would be an asset. Also an asset is a strong undergraduate background or courses in soil fertility, plant nutrition, crop production.

Start Date: May 2015 or until position is filled

To apply, please contact:

Dr. Laura L. Van Eerd,
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus
Email: lvaneerd@uoguelph.ca
Phone: 519-674-1500 x63644

