Notice of Vacancy

Ph.D Research Assistant, Precision Agriculture/Agricultural Automation
Center for Precision Agricultural Systems/ Department of Biological Systems Engineering
College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences
Washington State University

Position: Ph.D Research Assistant

Description: The incumbent will conduct innovative research related to the development of a yield monitoring system for mechanically assisted or fully mechanized sweet cherry harvest as part of a research team engaged in a USDA funded project to develop a stemfree sweet cherry production, processing and marketing system. The project involves the use of RTK-GPS, wireless communications, RFID tracking sensors, GIS, and other technologies that will locate, track, weigh, cherries harvested through a variety of harvest assisted and mechanical harvest technologies. The ultimate goal is to develop sweet cherry yield and profitability maps in near real time.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate has an M.S. degree in agricultural engineering or related discipline, a strong background in instrumentation and computer programming, and excellent English oral and written communication skills. Preference will be given to candidates with experience with sensors and sensing technologies, electronics, wireless technologies, GIS and spatial analysis, and agricultural mechanization. Also beneficial to this position is proficiency in C/C++ programming, knowledge of horticultural crop production systems, experience with experimental plot techniques, and ability to work with agricultural scientists and industry personnel.

Available Date: The position is available starting as early as October 1, 2009.

Information: Send an email describing your research and education interests along with your curriculum vitae to Dr. Francis J. Pierce at fjpierce@wsu.edu

Application for Graduate School: Candidates for this assistantship must formally apply and be admitted for graduate studies in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Washington State University. The application process can be accessed at http://www.bsyse.wsu.edu/core/Graduate%20Studies/engr-grad-apply-intro.htm. Questions regarding the graduate application procedure can be directed to Ms. Joan Hagedorn. Please refer to this announcement in your application letter to the Graduate School (http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/).

Location: The research will be conducted at the Center for Precision Agricultural Systems (CPAS) in collaboration with the WSU Stone Fruit Physiology Group, located at the WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research & Extension Center in Prosser, WA. Formal coursework will be taken at the WSU Pullman and the WSU Tri-Cities campuses as needed for completion of degree requirements. Information about WSU CAHNRS can be found at http://cahnrs.wsu.edu, the BSE Department at http://www.bsyse.wsu.edu, IAREC at http://prosser.wsu.edu, CPAS at http://www.cpas.wsu.edu, and WSU Stone Fruit Physiology at http://fruit.prosser.wsu.edu/index.html.