SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION
JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Agricultural Conservation Intern
Department:	Agricultural Conservation Team
Location:	Dubuque County, Iowa
FLSA Status:	Non-Exempt (Hourly), Part-Time
Posting Date:	October 1, 2026
Position Timing:	Fall 2026, Can extend through summer

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Sand County Foundation (SCF) is a national nonprofit working at the intersection of agricultural and environmental improvement. We research and demonstrate conservation strategies that make economic sense for landowners. Our Leopold Conservation Award program recognizes and promotes the stories of conservation-minded farmers and ranchers to inspire other landowners to consider conservation opportunities on their land. Nearly 60 years ago, SCF was built on the core ideas encouraged by Aldo Leopold, America's foremost conservation thinker. Leopold inspired private landowners to adopt what he called a land ethic—a personal responsibility to treat land, water, and wildlife with respect. Today, as most of the land in the contiguous 48 states is managed by farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners, SCF is inspiring them to ethically manage the natural resources in their care.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Agricultural Conservation team manages a diverse project portfolio funded by both private and public grants, creating an energizing and dynamic work experience. This intern will support field data collection for SCF's "Farmer-led Fund" and related activities funded by the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), as well as data entry and processing for other projects. Practices commonly supported in these projects include soil health improvement (cover crops, reduced tillage, crop rotations), rotational grazing, perennial buffers, and nutrient management. An ideal candidate will have interest in pursuing a future career in regenerative agriculture and conservation.

Successful candidates will join the Agricultural Conservation team as an intern to assist with seasonal needs in Dubuque County, Iowa. They will report to the Agricultural Geospatial Data Scientist and will interact with all SCF personnel, including outside partners, local farmers, and landowners. Hours can be flexible based on class schedules, and the position may extend into spring or summer, provided project tasks are available.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assist with on-farm soil and/or cover crop biomass sampling.
2. Process biomass samples, including drying, weighing, and recording data accurately in spreadsheets.
3. Utilize digital software for in-field data collection.
4. Maintain effective communication with all cooperating staff and partners.
5. Uphold commitment to SCF principles, mission, and objectives.
6. Complete other duties and tasks as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

1. Direct experience and coursework in agricultural production or environmental sciences.
2. Demonstrated experience using Microsoft Excel or other data management software.
3. Capable of carrying equipment (<5 lbs) and navigating uneven terrain in various weather conditions.
4. Proficient oral and written communication skills.
5. Ability to work in a collaborative environment, cooperating on projects to produce high-quality, timely deliverables.
6. Enthusiasm and passion for the mission, goals, and core values of SCF.
7. Willingness to travel to project sites and meetings within Dubuque County, Iowa. Valid driver's license required.
8. Candidates must be authorized to work lawfully in the U.S.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SCF is an equal opportunity employer committed to being a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace. We are committed to creating a workplace where people from all social identities and backgrounds feel welcome and can thrive. We believe that rich diversity makes us more innovative, competitive, and creative, which helps us better serve our sponsors, collaborators, and communities.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION

Submit a resume and contact information for professional references to apply@sandcountyfoundation.org.

For specific questions regarding the position, please email Haleigh Summers, Ph.D., Agricultural Geospatial Data Scientist at hsummers@sandcountyfoundation.org.