

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Pastureland Conservation Outcomes Postdoctoral Research

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-PA-2026-0375

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-PA-2026-0375

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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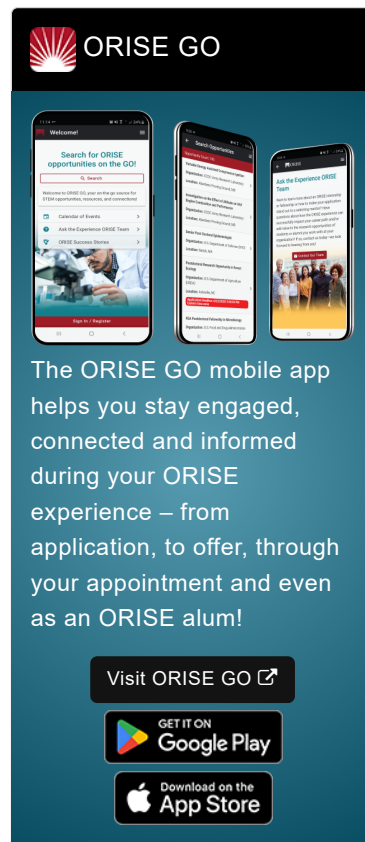
Application Deadline 11/20/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis and applications may close before the deadline.**

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Temple, Texas.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

Research Project: This project supports the mission of the USDA-ARS, Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory by advancing technologies and approaches that improve the efficient use of soil and water resources while promoting sustainable forage and crop production. You will have the opportunity to contribute to a ranch-scale, long-term research effort focused on evaluating conservation outcomes in pastureland systems. This will include field and laboratory research, implementation of management treatments, and the use of coding and process-based models to analyze natural resource dynamics.



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Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, you will build experience in plant and soil assessment, hydrologic monitoring, remote sensing, GIS applications, and processed-based model calibration. The program is designed to develop you into an independent researcher capable of assessing pastureland conservation outcomes using advanced analytical and field-based techniques. In addition, you will gain professional experience through collaboration across federal and university partners, involvement in large research teams, and opportunities to engage with scientific societies and contribute to peer-reviewed publications.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Merilynn Schantz (merilynn.schantz@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: December 2026. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.Plains@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields.

Stipend \$8,000.00 – \$10,000.00 Monthly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#) )

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- **Engineering** ([4](#) 👁)
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([4](#) 👁)
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([11](#) 👁)
- **Mathematics and Statistics** ([3](#) 👁)