

## **POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**POSITION:** Postdoctoral Researcher in Cover Crop Breeding

**LOCATION:** USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Beltsville, MD

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:** This postdoctoral position, for a candidate with a PhD in plant breeding or related area, will coordinate a national team improving hairy vetch, winter pea, crimson clover, and other cover crop species. Cover crop use is increasing nationally, but the scarcity of breeding programs has prevented the release of cultivars adapted to each region. Our consortium targets important traits for cover crop improvement such as early vigor, winter survival, and biomass production, as well as unique traits for each species, such as flowering time, soft seed in vetch, hard seed in crimson clover, disease resistance in peas, and allelopathy in rye. The candidate will manage a large nationwide team, coordinate teleconferences and annual meetings, and guide protocol development and execution. The candidate will develop independent projects to further cover crop genetic improvement, assist with grant writing, and develop manuscripts from past and future datasets. The candidate will be stationed in the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory (SASL) at the USDA-ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland. Numerous other collaborating institutions are part of the network, including North Carolina State University, Cornell University, University of Minnesota, USDA-ARS Dairy Forage Research Center (Madison, WI), USDA-ARS Grain Legume Genetics Physiology Research (Pullman, WA), and Texas A&M. More information about this national breeding team can be found at [www.covercropbreeding.com](http://www.covercropbreeding.com).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** PhD degree in Plant Breeding, Agronomy, or closely related field. Project management experience and specialty knowledge in statistics, genetics, and the analysis of multi-environment data are preferred.

Women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans are encouraged to apply. Funding for professional development, organizational membership, and/or attendance at conferences for BIPOC/women/LGBT are available to the selected candidate.

**SALARY AND BENEFITS:** The position will be hired at the GS11 level. Annual salary is \$72,030 and includes competitive benefits.

**HOW TO APPLY:** For further detail about the position contact Dr. Steven Mirsky, Research Ecologist, USDA-ARS Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory, [steven.mirsky@usda.gov](mailto:steven.mirsky@usda.gov). To apply, the following application materials should be sent to Dr. Mirsky with the email subject of "Cover Crop Breeding Postdoc Application."

1. Cover letter
2. CV
3. List of 3 references with contact information

**DATE AVAILABLE:** Available immediately or until the position is filled.