



Masters' or PhD Research Assistantship opportunity at the University of Maine: Integrated socio-environmental agroecology project on water use efficiency in diversified vegetable farming systems

Whole Farm Water is a project of the Agroecology Lab at the University of Maine, led by Dr. Rachel E. Schattman. We are currently seeking a Masters or PhD student to work on an integrated, social-environmental agroecology project looking at irrigation decisions made by diversified vegetable producers in the northeastern U.S. Efficient water use is of increasing importance in the context of climate change and changing temperature and precipitation regimes. This project looks at water use efficiency practices to understand production outcomes, limits to adoption, and how awareness of climate change does or does not influence farmer management decisions. Our work includes field trials in Maine and Vermont, as well as focus groups and interviews with farmers across the Northeast. There is a particular focus on soil moisture sensing technology as a way to improve crop yield and quality, and decrease nutrient leaching. There are also opportunities for PhD students to augment work on *Whole Farm Water*, and develop independent research agendas that are within the scope of the lab.

Preferred candidates will be detail oriented, have excellent time management, writing, and oral communication skills. Willingness and ability to work outside and perform field work are necessary. English proficiency and a valid driver's license are required. Desired (but not required) skills include statistical programming and/or analysis, qualitative analysis, and graphic design. Our lab uses R, SPSS, NVivo, and the basic Adobe Suite.

The position can either begin in January or May 2020. The first step of the application process is to send a brief email to rachel.schattman@maine.edu detailing your research interests and a copy of your curriculum vitae. Prospective PhD students should also include a one-page draft proposal of your potential research interests.