

Postdoc in soil microbial ecology and sustainability, Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University

Position: A postdoctoral position is available in the Evans Lab at Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station at the intersection of soil microbial ecology, socio-ecological systems, and agricultural management. The would work on an NSF-funded Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems (CNH2) grant that investigates the evolutionary and agricultural impact of irrigation on microbial communities, biological drivers of healthy soils, and farmer decision-making under changing climates. The successful candidate will join the Evans Lab at Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station and study the impacts of irrigation and other management techniques on microbial communities across the Midwest region. However the candidate will also interact closely with others on the project, and thus should have an interest in other disciplines (e.g. sociology, agronomy, resource management) relevant to agricultural sustainability and soil health. This is an excellent opportunity for a postdoc wanting to gain experience in interdisciplinary collaborations and link their work to a broader problem, but still address fundamental questions in microbial ecology. The candidate will also benefit from interacting with other projects in the Evans Lab, and at Kellogg Biological Station.



Qualifications: A PhD in an appropriate discipline is required, as is demonstration of strong written and oral communication skills. Skillsets relevant to the position are the following: DNA and RNA extraction, amplicon sequencing, bioinformatic skills, soil sampling, and soil biological and chemical assays. Interest (but not necessarily experience in) interdisciplinary work, agriculture, water management, and sustainability strongly desired.

Start date and salary: The postdoctoral appointment is for two years, but will begin with a one-year appointment, with expectation that it would be renewed for a second year, and further, contingent on external funding. Start date range is June 2021-November 2021; please describe preferred start date and/or constraints in the cover letter.

To apply: You will need a 1) cover letter that includes research accomplishments, future research interests and directions, skills and experience related to this position, and areas of interest in broader impacts (e.g. outreach, communication, education, DEI, etc), 2) CV, and 3) contact information (name, position, phone, email) for three references. Apply online at careers.msu.edu by searching posting number 685620.

MSU is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, first-generation college students, and persons underrepresented in the sciences are encouraged to apply. We will start reviewing applications September 13, and continue until the position is filled. Candidates wishing to apply after this date can email evanssa6@msu.edu to see whether the position is still open.

The Evans Lab: (www.saraheevanslab.weebly.com): The candidate will benefit from interactions with personnel and projects in the Evans Lab asking how rainfall, irrigation, and management affect soil health, sustainability and science translation to policy, increasing representation in science, and microbial dispersal and assembly. To investigate these questions, we use molecular techniques, physiological assays, modeling, and terrestrial climate manipulations. The lab is currently a vibrant and supportive community of graduate students and lab technicians/managers and undergraduates. This project will be supported by a technician to assist with project coordination and sample analysis. We have prioritized creation of a diverse environment that supports individuals regardless of cultural background, race, orientation, or ethnicity.



Kellogg Biological Station (www.kbs.msu.edu) is a premier biological research station located ~65 miles from the main campus of Michigan State. It is home to 10 faculty and their graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, with interests ranging from biogeochemistry to community ecology to evolution, as well as full-time research staff, visiting research scientists, and many summer undergraduates. It is also home to sites for several national networks, including the KBS Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) site and Long Term Agricultural Research site (LTAR), both of which investigate the ecology of agricultural landscapes from different angles, and the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center, which investigates the sustainability of bioenergy systems.

Postdoc development: KBS and the Evans Lab are committed to postdoctoral research career development. The postdoc will have professional development opportunities in the form mentoring, teaching, grant writing, public communication and others, while working on highly collaborative research projects to meet the postdoc's defined career goals.