



## **Career Opportunity – Plant Breeder**

**Location: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

**Ag-Quest**, the premiere provider of Western Canadian contract research services for the agricultural industry since 1983, is looking for a full-time, permanent Research Associate to join our team in Saskatoon to conduct contract plant breeding work and variety trials.

### **Qualifications:**

- M.Sc or PhD in Plant Breeding, or BSc in Plant Genetics with breeding experience.
- Successful candidate must be eligible for at least Associate Breeder status with CSGA in 2019.
- Must have a Valid Class 5 Driver's license or higher class.
- Must have Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Residency status
- Experience with field research trials, crop production practices, and operation of field research equipment (tractors, seeders, sprayers, combines, etc.) is an asset.
- Previous experience in plant breeding, agriculture and/or agricultural field trials is a strong asset.

### **Skills**

- Ability to learn, identify and address knowledge gaps effectively
- Able to work with multiple stakeholders and maintain client confidentiality
- Excellent attention to detail
- Able to follow protocols and procedures
- Ask questions to clarify and understand protocols, procedures, situations
- Problem solving and critical thinking
- Strong English written and verbal communication
- Able to work both independently and in a team environment
- Able and willing to learn new skills
- Strong organizational skills and time management
- Familiarity with trial design and layout is an asset

**Research Associate Job Description:**

The successful candidate will conduct Plant Breeding activities and variety research trials based at the Saskatoon Ag-Quest Station. The candidate will be responsible for all aspects of conducting agricultural field trials with various crop types including industrial hemp. This includes, but is not limited to, working with clients to understand breeding goals, learning breeding techniques for new crops, locating suitable trial sites, operating plot equipment, planting and maintaining trials, maintenance pesticide applications, assessments, harvesting trials, maintaining records as per protocol and SOP requirements, propagation and maintenance of breeder seed according to the Ag-Quest breeder seed production quality management system, and submitting trial reports to clients.

The candidate will be required to work outdoors, operate small plot equipment including tractors, plot drills, sprayers, mowers and harvesters, as well as driving trucks and trailers. Depending on workload and skill levels, other trials and duties may be assigned. The candidate will participate in annual SOP review and ongoing training. Attention to detail, organization, patience, and the ability to plan in the face of changing weather conditions are critical attributes for this position.

The candidate will be expected to work independently and as a member of the Ag-Quest team, cooperating with other research personnel on station to ensure all phases of the work at the station are completed successfully. Extended work hours will be required during peak seasons. The winter season may include project activities, training, facility and equipment maintenance, and assisting with other programs and projects to contribute to the overall success of the company. Some travel may be required to off-station trials.

At times, Ag-Quest works on projects that would require the successful applicant to provide a criminal record check for the purpose of project licensing.

The successful candidate will be primarily responsible for conducting plant breeding work and variety trials, other trials as assigned, and other duties as assigned.

**Start date:** To be determined.

**Salary:** Dependent on relevant experience and education. Benefit package is available.

Candidates should outline their work experience, research qualifications and practical skills in the resume and cover letter, and be prepared to provide references. Only those candidates under consideration will be contacted. This position will remain open until filled.

Please apply to [careers@agquest.com](mailto:careers@agquest.com)