

**Title:** Ph.D. Assistantship – Improved Establishment of Native Grasslands

**Agency:** University of Tennessee, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries/Department of Plant Sciences

**Location:** Knoxville, TN

**Duration:** January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022

**Position Description:** Ph.D. research assistantship available for graduate student studying strategies for enhanced establishment of native grasslands. Native grasslands provide numerous benefits (e.g., forage, biomass, soil health, wildlife habitat) but have often been challenging to establish. This research will address several strategies designed to improve the reliability, cost-effectiveness, and value of native grassland establishment with a focus on forage production settings. Student will conduct, in cooperation with partners, a series of field experiments examining grazing as a weed control strategy during the seedling year, ground cover, pH and fertility management, and use of high diversity mixes. The Center for Native Grasslands Management (<http://nativegrasses.utk.edu/>) at the University of Tennessee is conducting this work in partnership with Greenacres Foundation (<https://www.green-acres.org/>.) The research is also being supported by the University of Tennessee Foundation. Degree for successful candidate will be a Ph.D. in Natural Resources or, alternatively, it may be possible for the degree to be in Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences.

**Qualifications:** Applicants must be highly motivated with a good attitude and a strong work ethic. Well-developed oral and written communication skills are desired and the ability to work cooperatively within a team setting is required. Students with an interest in and/or experience with native grasses and forage production with a strong interest in agro-ecology are preferred. Applicants should possess a M.S. in agronomy, range science, forestry, wildlife, or related field and a valid driver's license. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and GRE scores (Q+V) of 302 are required. A demonstrated track record/ability to publish in the peer-reviewed literature is also important.

**Salary:** \$22,500 plus tuition waiver and health insurance

**Last date to apply:** Until qualified applicant is found.

**Application Procedure:** Interested applicants should send a cover letter explaining their interest along with a CV, and GRE scores to the e-mail address below. Information on formal application as a Ph.D. candidate can be found at the Department's web page (<https://ag.tennessee.edu/fwf/Pages/default.aspx>).

**Contact:** Patrick Keyser, Professor  
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