Ph.D. Assistantship available in Soil Microbial Ecology and Forage systems

The Slaughter Lab and TeCSIS (https://www.depts.ttu.edu/forageresearch/) program in the Texas Tech University Department of Plant and Soil Science (https://www.depts.ttu.edu/pss/) in Lubbock, TX is seeking a Ph.D. student to begin in August 2022, although an earlier start date may be negotiated. The assistantship provides a 12-month stipend, tuition coverage, and health insurance for three years.

The student will participate in an integrated research program to determine how annual and perennial forages are impacted by the soil microbial composition and vice versa. Specifically, the student will be involved in determining the temporal and spatial changes in the microbial dynamics, shoot-root carbon balance and greenhouse gas emission patterns under irrigated and dryland conditions. This research is part of a multi-disciplinary effort to design management strategies that convert limited water and nutrient supplies in semi-arid environments into profitable forage and livestock commodities while building productive, climate-resilient and healthy soils.

Applicants should have an M.S. degree in soil science, microbiology, or a related field and have experience in conducting independent research. Prior experience with soil physical, chemical, and biological measurements including greenhouse gas emissions and statistical analysis is preferred. Applicants should be self-motivated and have excellent written and oral communication skills, management and organization skills, and the ability to work both individually and with a diverse team of fellow researchers. A valid U.S. driver license is required for travel to field sites for maintaining trials and sample collection. The student will be expected to work in field and laboratory settings that may involve hot and dry conditions.

Interested students should send application materials and/or questions directly to Dr. Lindsey Slaughter (lindsey.slaughter@ttu.edu) and Dr. Krishna Jagadish (svkjred@hotmail.com). Application materials must include a CV, a cover letter describing research experience, interests, and qualifications, unofficial transcripts, GRE and TOEFL scores if applicable, and the names and contact information for three references. Application materials should be submitted before March 31, 2022 to be given full consideration.