

MSc Agriculture Assistantship – Soil Ecology



Start date: May 2024

Stipend: \$24,000 per year

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia (Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture)

Background: Disturbances associated with intensive soil cultivation are widely understood to negatively impact soil health. Incorporating pasture into intensive rotations has been shown promise as a solution for improving soil health. Decomposition of livestock dung on pastures is promoted by a healthy community of invertebrates including dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) and earthworms. However, there is little understanding as to how quickly these invertebrate communities (and the important ecosystem services they support) establish and stabilize.

This MSc project will be co-supervised by [Paul Manning](#) (Dalhousie University) and [Erin Cameron](#) (Saint Mary's University) working closely with the [Nova Scotia Living Labs Team](#).

Diversity, equity, and inclusion: Dalhousie University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusiveness within the university community and making a collective impact in educating, preventing and addressing equity issues. The Office for Equity and Inclusion website (<https://www.dal.ca/dept/vpei.html>) provides resources and details of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives at Dalhousie.

The ideal candidate will:

- Hold a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Ecology, Agriculture, or a related discipline.
- Have experience conducting independent research, ideally through successful completion of an Honours Thesis.
- Have experience working collaboratively in field and laboratory conditions.
- Have a demonstrated interest in the taxonomy and identification of invertebrates.
- Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively with others, think critically, and meet deadlines.

For consideration, please send the following information as a single PDF by e-mail (paul.manning@dal.ca) with "Land Swap MSc" as the Subject Line:

- a brief letter outlining your research experiences and interests (1 page maximum)
- a recent CV including contact information for 2 referees (3 pages maximum)
- an unofficial transcript
- a scientific writing sample (e.g. thesis, paper, report)

Submissions are due 12 January 2024 at 11:59 PM (Atlantic Time).