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Graduate Student Assistantship M.Sc., Engineering (Precision Agriculture)

Supervisor: Dr. Qamar Zaman, Department of Engineering

Location: Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC)
Truro, Nova Scotia

Project: The development of precision agriculture technologies to apply agrochemicals on spot-specific basis, efficiently and cost-effectively will allow wild blueberry producers and processors to remain competitive. Uniform application of agrochemicals in highly variable fields may result in either over- or under-application. Over-fertilization may deteriorate water quality and reduce profit, while under-fertilization in some areas of the field may restrict crop yield. Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Oxford Frozen Foods Limited have initiated a Precision Agriculture Research Program to develop variable rate technologies to reduce agrochemical usage in wild blueberry cropping systems. This research study will investigate site-specific technologies comprising of sensors, controllers, DGPS, GIS and data logger to measure and map soil/crop characteristics real-time rapidly and reliably with-in blueberry fields for site-specific application of agrochemicals.

Requirements: Applicants must possess a B.Sc. Honors degree or equivalent degree in engineering, and be eligible to enroll in the M.Sc. Program at NSAC.

Stipend: \$16,500 annually for a two-year period.

Start Date: May 2010. Deadline to apply for a May start is February 28, 2010.

All application documentation should be sent directly to the Research & Graduate Studies Office at NSAC. Applicants must reference this specific research assistantship in their description of research interests to be considered for this position.

For information regarding the research project contact:

Dr. Qamar Zaman, Department of Engineering, NSAC, P.O. Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3 Canada. Email: qzaman@nsac.ca Telephone: 902-893-5426, Facsimile: 902-893-1859.

For Graduate Program information contact:

Marie Law, Program Assistant. Email: mlaw@nsac.ca Telephone: 902-893-6360, or visit the NSAC website at <http://www.nsac.ca/research/graduatestudies>

**The Master of Science program with a specialization in agriculture is offered by
NSAC in conjunction with Dalhousie University.**