

Graduate Student (M.Sc.) Assistantship

Using Compost Systems for the Control of Prion-Mediated Diseases

Supervision: Dr. G. W. Price, Innovative Waste Management Research Chair

Location: Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, NS

Project: Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) are the tissues from ruminant animals which contain the disease agent believed to cause Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Federal legislation bans these materials from entering the animal food cycle and strict disposal guidelines are currently in place. To date, only limited information is available on the role of composting in the management of these animal by-products. Research into this new area will be conducted using an in-vessel composting system, bin composting systems, and a windrow composting system housed at the NSAC's Bio-Environmental Engineering Centre (BEEC). The successful graduate student will gain experience in biochemistry, microbiology, composting science, and organic by-product management. This research initiative is a collaborative effort of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Qualifications: Applicants must possess a B.Sc. honours degree in agriculture, biochemistry, microbiology, soil science, environmental sciences, or a related field. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last two years of study is required for admission. Interest in and knowledge of composting systems, organic matter decomposition, microbiology, and/or biochemistry would be a strong asset. The candidate must also have strong written and oral communication skills.

Stipend: The successful candidate will be eligible to receive \$16,500 per year for two years. Partial tuition reimbursement may be available for eligible candidates. (A maximum stipend of up to \$21,000 per year for two years may also be available for eligible candidates through the NSERC Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS) Program.)

Start Date: Immediately with a January, May or September 2008 official start date in the M.Sc. program.

To Apply:

For additional information on the research and to submit the application, please contact: Dr. G. W. Price, Innovative Waste Management Research Chair, Department of Engineering, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3, Canada; E-mail: gprice@nsac.ca; Phone: +1 902 896 2461 or +1 902 890 0559

For Graduate Program Information:

For further information about the M.Sc. Program at NSAC contact Marie Law at mlaw@nsac.ca or visit the NSAC web site at <http://nsac.ca/research/graduatestudies/>.

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