

**From:** Steve Anderson  
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**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 2:46 PM

I am the newly appointed Director of the Montana Field Office of USDA NASS, replacing Peggy Stringer who retired at the beginning of the year. I am originally from Washington State, but most recently was the Deputy Director in the NASS Colorado Field Office. I wanted to introduce myself to you, and let you know I look forward to continuing a strong working relationship between our organizations.

Additionally, I wanted to make sure that the transition from Peggy to myself did not limit any recruitment efforts, as NASS does have opportunities available for spring graduates with backgrounds in agriculture, mathematics, and statistics. Basic requirements for qualification as an agricultural statistician are 6 semester hours in statistics, 9 in mathematics, and 9 in other physical and social sciences. Starting salary varies by State based on cost of living, but would be about 38K for a graduate with a bachelor's degree, qualifying grade point average and experiences. Starting salary with a masters degree would be about 46K. Our agency continues to value mobility, so any job offers would most likely be out of State.

We were not able to attend the spring career fair this year, but I have registered for the next one, this fall.

Also, I am available if the opportunity arises to speak to undergraduates in the department about NASS products and career opportunities.

Feel free to forward this message. I look forward to meeting you.

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