

MZTRA Soil Conservation Fellowship

The Manitoba Zero Tillage Research Association (MZTRA) established a trust fund at the University of Manitoba with a gift of \$120,000 in 2016. The Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative has made a matching contribution to the fund. The purpose of the fellowship is to encourage research pertaining to soil conservation with reduced tillage techniques. Each year, beginning in 2016-2017 and until the fund is exhausted, one fellowship of \$25,000 will be offered to a graduate student who:

- (1) is enrolled full-time in the Faculty of Graduate Studies in a research-based program delivered by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences;
- (2) has achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.5 based on the previous 60 credit hours (or equivalent) of study;
- (3) is conducting research in western Manitoba in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Brandon Research Centre, or with any other suitable (as determined by the selection committee) individual producer, private research, government or industry group in the region;
- (4) is conducting a research project examining one of the following topics:
 - (i) the benefits of reduced tillage practices and crop rotations (including but not limited to yield, disease and pest management, nutrient use and losses, soil organic matter, soil moisture, biological diversity),
 - (ii) practices to improve soil health, agroecosystem resiliency, and adaptation to climate change,
 - (iii) reduced farm energy use (fuel, fertilizer, pesticides),
 - (iv) benefits of perennials, cover crops/relay crops in rotation in relation to any of the above,
 - (v) pulse agronomy in relation to any of the above.

Preference in selection will be given to students conducting research projects involving reduced tillage techniques.

For the purposes of this award, “western Manitoba” is defined as west of the Red River Valley (Manitoba escarpment and Carberry Sandhills delimiting boundary).

Candidates will be required to submit an application that will consist of: (a) a description of their proposed or current research project (maximum 500 words), (b) a current curriculum vitae, (c) a current academic transcript(s), and (d) two academic letters of reference from professors at a post-secondary institution.

The value of the fellowship may be adjusted in the final year to ensure the trust fund is exhausted.

The Vice-Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (or designate) will ask the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (or designate) to convene the selection committee for this award.

The Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba has the right to modify the terms of this award if, because of changed conditions, it becomes necessary to do so. Such modification shall conform as closely as possible to the expressed intention of the donor in establishing the award.