The Department of Applied Economics and Statistics at the University of Delaware will be funding four to five Graduate Research Assistantships in the department's areas of interest. These research assistantships will be funded for two years (assuming satisfactory performance) leading to a master's degree in Agricultural Economics. The assistantships will be awarded to students based on a combination of ability and interest in one of the topics listed below. If the applicant is awarded an assistantship, compensation is anticipated to be $17,500 for nine-months with 100 percent tuition covered. A portion of the University's Accident and Sickness Insurance plan will be covered.

**Food Economics, Food Safety, and Consumer Behavior.** The research assistant will be engaged in research using experimental economics techniques in the general area of food marketing, consumer behavior, marketing and behavioral economics. Research assistant will focus on consumer behavior to labeling, food risks, and media information. Research will involve adult consumers as research participants and occur in the laboratory, in the field, and in the Center for Experimental & Applied Economics. Supervising faculty: Bernard (jbernard@udel.edu), Messer (messer@udel.edu)

**The Economics of Nonpoint Source Pollution Control.** Research assistants are sought to contribute to on-going research involving the behavior leading to nonpoint source pollution and the economics of corrective policies. Topics include investigating best management practice incentives, water quality trading, reverse auctions, and input taxes. Driving this effort is the goal of collaborative efforts leading to journal article publication on topics of importance to agricultural economy and broader social welfare. Supervising faculty: Duke (duke@udel.edu)

**Land Use Economics and Policy.** Research assistants are sought to contribute to on-going research involving land conservation and preservation. Research also involves property rights and institutions. Topics include assessing government policies, explaining incentives, and policy design. Driving this effort is the goal of collaborative efforts leading to journal article publication on topics of importance to agricultural economy and broader social welfare. Supervising faculty: Duke (duke@udel.edu)

**Application of Behavioral Economics to Agri-Environmental Policy.** Working with the project team associated with the Center for Experimental & Applied Economics, the research assistant will work on testing insights from behavioral economics on participation and outcomes related to the national agri-environmental programs. The research assistant will utilize randomized controlled trials and research will often be conducted in collaboration with state and federal programs as part of the USDA-funded national Center for Behavioral & Experimental Agri-Environmental Policy (CBEAR). Supervising faculty: Messer (messer@udel.edu)

**AFGRI-environmental Policies to Improve Water Quality.** In the United States, conservation agencies pay farmers to voluntarily adopt management practices that improve water quality and other ecosystem services. Despite billions of dollars spent annually, agricultural pollution remains a persistent problem. Working with the supervising faculty, the research assistant will design and test alternative conservation incentive programs. Research will also explore how information from water quality sensors can be used to motivate conservation actions. The research assistant will utilize experimental economics techniques in the lab. The assistant will also help communicate
this research to diverse audiences by contributing to journal and newspaper articles as well as presentations. Supervising faculty: Palm-Forster (leahhp@udel.edu)

**Responsibilities**
Under the direction of their advisor, each research assistant will:
1. Work on a research project;
2. Complete a Master's degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics;
3. Prepare at least one article for publication.

**Requirements**
1. A BS degree in Agricultural Economics or Economics, or completion of necessary coursework to enter the department’s graduate program.

**Application Process**
Applicants should follow the normal process for admission to the graduate program for the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics. For more information link to [http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/apply/](http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/apply/).

In completing the application you will be asked to indicate your area of study on the supplemental document that you will submit as part of the application. If you are interested in more than one, please indicate all of the topics you may be interested in. Questions can be directed to the supervising faculty, the director of graduate admission (John Pesek pesek@udel.edu), Erma Wolpert (ewolpert@udel.edu) or the interim chair of the department (Thomas Ilvento ilvento@udel.edu).