



**Research Social Scientist Salary
Range: \$73,889 to \$96,053 GS-11**

Postdoctoral Research on Climate Vulnerability of Regional Food Systems

Food Systems Research Unit
Burlington, VT

The USDA Agricultural Research Service seeks a postdoctoral researcher with an interest in understanding the vulnerability of food systems to climate change and related disasters to work in the Food Systems Research Unit in Burlington, VT. The incumbent will work with Research Social Scientist Dr. Caitlin Morgan in support of the unit's research on the contribution of regional food systems to environmental sustainability, economic viability, and improved nutrition.

A goal of Dr. Morgan's research program is to better understand the relationship between social, economic, and environmental phenomena as they relate to social sustainability in northeastern United States food systems. To this end, the incumbent will plan and conduct data collection on how climate change has and will affect northeast food systems, and on how stakeholders can increase system resilience. The project will include a comprehensive literature review of food system climate vulnerabilities in the northeast and a case study of impacts, responses, and lessons learned from the catastrophic flooding in Vermont in summer 2023. The project will draw on diverse types of data, including geospatial, land use, and Census data, municipal records, interviews, and in-person observations. Working with Dr. Morgan and in collaboration with other members of the unit, the incumbent will combine relevant data to investigate the expected food systems impacts of climate volatility and the possible and best-case responses of food systems to maintain production and distribution of regional foods.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in food systems, natural resources, geography, sociology, environmental social science, or a related social science field. Knowledge of mixed methods, including qualitative and quantitative data integration, is highly desirable. Knowledge of geospatial data analysis is preferred. The incumbent will be expected to prepare manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and to present at scientific meetings.

This is a 13-month position renewable for up to three years, contingent upon funding and satisfactory performance. The position is available immediately.

To apply, send a CV and a covering letter explaining your interest in the position to Dr. Caitlin Morgan (Caitlin.Morgan@usda.gov) by April 25, 2024. Applications will continue to be considered until the position is filled. U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents seeking U.S. Citizenship may apply.

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