

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, assists farm advisors in the layout establishment and maintenance of agricultural research projects; collects and records scientific data relating to experimental and research projects; performs laboratory screening of agricultural commodities for the presence of plant diseases; and does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This single position class is assigned to the County Agricultural Extension Service to assist farm advisors in various experimental and demonstration work. After a project has been established, the incumbent is responsible for independently following protocols, coordinating with cooperators, applying treatments, maintaining the plots, collecting data, making observations, and communicating the project status to the researcher.

The class is distinguished from the class of Agricultural Aide in that the latter performs a variety of subprofessional agricultural inspection, survey and control activities.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

1. Screens plant material in the laboratory to detect the presence of plant pathogens; follows research protocols to conduct field and laboratory trials
2. Records the growth of plants and measures harvest weights and quality; makes field notes on field and crop conditions
3. Assists in coordinating sites for experimental or demonstration projects with professionals in the agricultural industry; assists farm advisors in preparing reports by assembling data and reporting field operations
4. Maintains records on assigned research or experimental projects
5. Assists in all aspects of crop production, including planting, irrigating, spraying, pruning, weeding thinning, fertilizing and harvesting of experimental plots.

QUALIFICATIONS

A combination of experience, education, and/or training which substantially demonstrates the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

Knowledge and Skills:

Working knowledge of:

1. Basic principles and methods of agricultural research procedures
2. Principles and methods of crop production.

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Some knowledge of:

1. Modern agricultural methods and equipment

Skill and Ability to:

1. Perform basic crop production procedures and operations
2. Work independently
3. Meet rigid requirements of scientific experiments
4. Operate and maintain various scientific instruments
5. Maintain accurate records and prepare reports
6. Utilize computer systems for input, retrieval and analyses of data
7. Understand and carry out oral and written directions
8. Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with co-workers and the public.

REQUIRED CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

As a condition of employment, the incumbent will be required to:

1. Possession of a valid Class C driver's license by the time of appointment
2. Possession of a valid Class A driver's license within 60 days of employment
3. Ability to obtain a qualified applicator certificate for pesticide application from the California Department of Food and Agriculture within 6 months of hire

EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION/TRAINING

The knowledge, skills and abilities listed above may be acquired through various types of experience, education or training, typically:

Experience:

Two years of agricultural research related experience, which included responsibility for crop-project maintenance and data collection.

Education:

Completion of two or more years of college coursework with included course work in agricultural and laboratory science areas.

Agricultural Extension Technician

CLASS HISTORY

Class Code: 43S22
Established Date: October, 1969
Retitled Date: July, 1976
Former Title: Agricultural Extension Assistant
Revised: October, 1991

CLASS DATA

Job Group: 13
EEO Category: T
Work Comp. Code: 9410
Bargaining/Employee Unit: J
FLSA: C
MOCO OT: Y

Prepared by: HAR 10/21/1991

Approved by:

/s/ Lorna J. Taluban
County Administrative Office

10/30/1991
Date