

POSITION NUMBER: 00013015

REQUISITION NUMBER:

UF CLASSIFICATION: Laboratory Technician III

WORKING TITLE: Laboratory Technician III

DEPARTMENT: 60820000

SUMMARY OF POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

The incumbent provides support for a variety of research experiments, including establishing, implementing, and evaluating field, greenhouse, and laboratory activities at the Water and Land Resources Research and Education Center (WFREC) and off-site locations. Key responsibilities include planning and executing studies, collecting and analyzing data, preparing results for publication, maintaining equipment, and ensuring compliance with laboratory, greenhouse, and field safety procedures.

ESSENTIALS FUNCTIONS OF THE JOB AND THE PERCENTAGE OF TIME SPENT ON EACH FUNCTION

WFREC Service: Incumbent practices and fosters team spirit and positive, productive relations with colleagues at the WFREC.

Establish experiments, implement protocols, collect, record, and summarize research data, and maintain records: 50%

Responsible for coordination, implementation, and execution of a variety of research experiments of activities for the establishment of field, greenhouse and laboratory experiments at the WFREC and off-site. Works independently and cooperatively with the principal investigator to achieve research objectives. The activities include, but are not limited to, planning and execution of studies (i.e., land preparation, study initiation, plot maintenance), implementation of treatments (i.e., herbicide application), laboratory assays (i.e., seed germination, DNA/RNA extraction, PCR, qPCR), data collection and entry, statistical analysis, supervision of temporary workers and graduate students. Analyzes experimental data and interpret results to write reports and summaries of findings, and prepares results for publication. Research data is expected to be maintained up to date with workflow and available to others involved in the project. Serves as liaison between landowners, industry, cooperators, and UF/IFAS PIs and maintain client-collaborator relations across multiple research locations. Trains others in laboratory methods and procedures within and outside of WFREC. Travel and ability to drive a state vehicle will be required to implement research objectives at the regional level.

Operations, maintenance, and creative works: 30%

Design and supervise the construction of research equipment. Operate and maintain equipment needed to perform the experiments. The incumbent will oversee inventory of supplies and belongings. The incumbent will purchase necessary supplies, instruments, and other items needed for research under PI approval. The incumbent will help troubleshoot, repair, and maintain equipment and facilities, including, but not limited to, agricultural machines, sprayers, greenhouse, irrigation, etc. Responsible for motor pool records and maintenance up to date. Prepares information and helps with dissemination during field days and other extension events.

Complies with chemical and Pesticide Safety Program: 10%

Responsible for compliance with laboratory, greenhouse, and field safety procedures.

Participates in safety programs, committees, or teams and by conducting laboratory or plant safety audits. Responsible for maintenance of safe storage, use, disposal, and appropriate documentation of chemicals and pesticides. Trains personnel on chemical safety programs and chemical hygiene plans and ensures compliance.

Perform other tasks as necessary under the direction of the PI: 10%

The incumbent must be capable of conducting the activities described independently, while maintaining constant communication with the PI.

SUPERVISION

Weekly planning meetings at which oral and written instructions will be provided. Incumbent will supervise OPS, and other part- and full-time employees.

NORMAL WORK SCHEDULE

Hours will generally be as noted in a normal work schedule, with flexibility. Suggested: Monday through Friday 7 am-4 pm. We anticipate that there will be periods of out-of-town travel with some requiring up to several days away from home. Total away time per year is likely to not exceed 5%. The nature of the work occasionally requires periods of overtime, particularly during planting and harvest season, which will be properly compensated.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Associate's degree in an appropriate area of specialization and four years of related experience or a high school diploma and six years of related experience. Appropriate college course work or vocational/technical training may substitute at an equivalent rate for the required experience.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

BS degree in Agronomy, Crop Science, Plant Science, Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, or related disciplines

Organizational skills, A can-do attitude, hands-on, and common-sense approach to quickly solve problems related to work

Basic computer skills, including Microsoft Word and Excel

Experience performing research

Experience operating ARM software

REQUIRED LICENSES, CERTIFICATIONS, AND OTHER SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF LAW

Valid Driver's license or ability to acquire one within 30 days from start

Florida Restricted (Public) Pesticide License or ability to acquire one within 90 days from start

This position requires a criminal background check

This position requires a post-offer health assessment

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

The nature of the work requires reasonable physical conditions, since tasks include, but are not limited to, lifting 60 lb bags, lowering/bending/kneeling/squatting for a significant amount of time

Be able to perform research activities potentially under adverse weather conditions (i.e., heat, cold, humid, dry)

PROGRAM DIRECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Employee will be responsible for coordination, implementation, and execution of research experiments.

COMMUNICATION

Employee is expected to serve as liaison between landowners, industry, cooperators, and UF/IFAS principal investigators on a daily basis, as well as WFREC staff.

POSITION CHANGE ACTION

This is a time-limited position renewed on a year-basis. Reappointment will occur based on evaluations of performance and availability of funds.