Weed Science Assistant (OPS Employee) – University of Florida

The University of Florida West Florida Research and Education Center at Jay, FL is seeking an individual for the Weed Science Assistant position. The WFREC research unit consists of 640 acres and is located about 12 miles north of Milton near Jay, FL (Lat 30.776657°, Long -87.141633°), where research is being conducted on weed science, cropping systems, entomology, golf and sports turf management, landscape and nursery management, forestry, and wildlife ecology.

The Weed Science Assistant will report to the Weed Scientist (Dr. Pratap Devkota) with day-to-day supervision by the Weed Science Program Technician. Activities include implementing and maintaining research plots conducted for weed management in row crop (e.g., cotton, peanut, corn, wheat, soybean, carinata, etc.) and pasture/hay (bahiagrass, bermudagrass etc.) production. The major activities include assisting research project with general crop production and management practices (tillage, planting, spraying, harvesting etc.), maintenance of farm and laboratory equipment, execution of weed science research protocols (mixing and spraying herbicide treatments), data collection and entry, and recordkeeping of research activities (maintaining databases related to research projects). The incumbent will also provide assistance necessary for research, extension, and demonstration activities; and graduate students projects. The work assignment is approximately 50% field-based and 50% laboratory-based.

The incumbent must obtain a public pesticide applicators license within 60 days from hire date. A criminal background check will be conducted prior to employment.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience. Typical starting pay for this position is $9-11/hour with potential for increase based on the performance.

At present, candidate is anticipated to work for a minimum of 20 to max of a 30 hours per week. However, these hours could increase to full time role in the future months based on project funding situation. Students who qualify for Federal Work Study programs are encouraged to apply. The incumbent will receive on-the-job, hands-on training relate to weed science topics as needed.

Minimum requirements for the position:
- A can-do attitude and a hands-on approach to the problems
- Ability to follow instructions, ask questions, and work well in the team
- Detail oriented, well organized, excellent record keeping in timely manner
- Interest in crop production, especially weed management research topics
- Ability to work in all weather, particularly heat, dry, wet conditions
- Basic computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel etc.)

Preferred Qualifications:
- Experience in agricultural crop production or research environment
- Experience in operating farm equipment

To Apply for This Position:
Email resume to Dr. Pratap Devkota at pdevkota@ufl.edu. Indicate in subject line “Weed Science Assistant.” Contact Dr. Devkota with questions related to this announcement (850-983-7102).