OPS Agricultural Assistant – University of Florida

The University of Florida West Florida Research and Education Center near Jay, FL seeks a full-time OPS Agricultural Assistant. The WFREC research unit consists of 640 acres and is located about 12 miles north of Milton near Jay, FL, where research is conducted on cropping systems, weed science, entomology, golf and sports turf management, landscape and nursery management, forestry, and wildlife ecology.

The OPS Agricultural Assistant will report to the Farm Manager for day-to-day supervision. Employee will be responsible for operation and basic maintenance of large and small farm tractors and equipment, heavy equipment, loaders, backhoes, turf care equipment and other equipment used to support WFREC research programs. Also responsible for assisting with preparation, planting, data collection and harvest of research and demonstration plots at the WFREC. May be required to operate trucks and trailers for transport of equipment and supplies. Must be able to set up and operate all types of farm equipment including those with computer-based guidance systems for precision operations and record keeping. Ability to read and understand pesticide labels is required. Incumbent in this position could be exposed to varied amounts of dust, dirt, and plant materials. High noise levels can be expected. Use of Personal Protective Equipment will be required for some tasks. Some heavy lifting will be required.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, land preparation, research plot maintenance, scouting for pests, and proper pesticide application.

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. A post-offer medical exam may be required.

Rate of pay will be commensurate with experience. Starting pay for this position will be up to $14.36/hour but will be adjusted for relevant experience. Due to UF policy, this position is employable for up to two years at full time employment (4176 hours). The incumbent may choose to enroll in limited benefits, including:
- Medical insurance
- State Supplemental benefits (dental, vision, cancer/intensive care, & hospital plans)
- 403(b) or 457 voluntary savings plans

Monday – Friday, 7:00 – 3:30

Minimum requirements for the position:
- Ability to operate and maintain tractors and associated equipment (sprayers, combines, planters, etc.)
- Excellent planning skills (weekly work schedules, research prioritization, etc.)
- Experience in agricultural and/or horticultural crop production
- A positive, can-do attitude
- A hands-on, common sense approach to problems
- Ability to ask questions and work well with others

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution
• Detail oriented and well organized
• Interest in research and crop production
• Ability to work in all weather, particularly heat

Preferred Qualifications:
• Experience in a research environment
• Computer literacy (MS Office365)

To Apply for This Position:
Email resume to Carol Johnston at cpjohnston@ufl.edu. Indicate in subject line “OPS - Agricultural Assistant.” Contact Ms. Johnston with questions related to this announcement (850-983-7137).

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression. We particularly welcome applicants who can contribute to such an environment through their scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and professional service.

If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 850-983-7137 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or visit Accessibility at UF.