Position Overview

As part of the MSUE Ag & Agribusiness (AABI) Institute and based in Kalamazoo County, which has a dense concentration of commercial greenhouse producers, this position will provide statewide expertise in floriculture, greenhouse and nursery production, with a focus on horticulture in floriculture and nursery crop production and pest management. This position will also provide leadership to the industries by working with faculty, specialists, and field-based educators to achieve efficient and economical floriculture and nursery production and overall advancement for the Michigan greenhouse and ornamental industries; provide leadership and cooperation in the planning, development, and delivery of educational programs and information dissemination for growers and agri-business professionals; provide growers and agri-business professionals with the knowledge to profitably produce agricultural products while minimizing environmental impact, contributing to the short- and long-term viability of commercial enterprises, and the economic well-being of Michigan citizens and participate in basic and/or applied research projects independently as well as in collaboration with MSU Extension educators and campus specialists.

General Responsibilities:

1. Develop, conduct, and evaluate innovative educational programs in pest management and horticulture for commercial floriculture and nursery production in Michigan.

2. Facilitate irrigation water, growing media, and plant tissue testing as well as plant and pest diagnosis, in coordination with MSU's Diagnostic Services.

3. Communicate and interact with related commodity groups to establish research and outreach programming goals to enhance Michigan’s industries’ positioning and strategies for farm and market viability.

4. Assist AABI in determining research and programmatic needs of the state and region through interaction with state commodity groups and associations, and communicate those needs to county commissioners, campus-based departments, and research partners.

5. Serve as an information resource for greenhouse and nursery growers as well as Extension personnel throughout the state, and work with statewide AABI workgroups to effectively plan and implement relevant programming.

6. Cooperate with MSUE staff in establishing, conducting and evaluating demonstrations and research efforts.

7. Work with other federal, county and state agencies that support agriculture industries.

8. Develop and utilize appropriate media methods to communicate/transfer current and timely research-based information, research results, and relevant industry updates to producers on a year-round basis.

9. Actively participate in appropriate professional development opportunities.

10. Prepare and submit monthly reports on programming activities and achievements in accordance with MSUE and other policies.

11. Work with MSUE and AABI workgroups to assure commitment to diversity and pluralism, ensure that educational opportunities are equally available to all Michigan residents.

Required Qualifications:
• Master’s degree from an accredited institution in field of study related to horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, or crop science, must be earned by date of hire.

• At least 3 years’ experience in Extension education or demonstrated ability and skill in educational program planning, implementation and evaluation (relevant experience acquired within the last 5 years preferred).

• Knowledge of horticulture practices related to greenhouse/nursery production.

• Strong interpersonal and oral and written skills.

• Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment.

• Proficiency in the use of computers in educational programming and management and competence in using technology for program delivery.

• Record keeping and reporting, and team-based communications.

• Proven ability to work with people of all socioeconomic levels and backgrounds.

• An understanding and commitment to equal access and opportunity and to diversity and inclusivity.

**Desired Qualifications:**

• Master’s degree from an accredited institution in field of study related to horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, or crop science, with an expertise in pest management or plant nutrition.

**Position and Application Information:**

This is a full-time, fixed-term academic position.

Interested and qualified candidates should visit [www.jobs.msu.edu](http://www.jobs.msu.edu) to apply for posting number 7499 in the MSU Extension postings. Candidates are asked to submit an up-to-date resume/CV and a cover letter that includes the names and contact information of four professional references. Application deadline is currently April 14, 2013.