Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute; Extension Educator – Fruit Tree

Position Overview

As part of MSU Extension (MSUE) and the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute, this position provides local and statewide leadership and educational programming expertise in tree fruit production. Located in Oceana County (Hart, MI) in West Michigan, this position collaborates across work teams and Institutes including working with faculty, specialists and educators to achieve efficient, profitable and sustainable fruit production and overall advancement for the Michigan tree fruit industries. Tree fruit production in Western Michigan represents 19,330 acres of active production and includes cherries (sweet and tart), apples and peaches.

The successful applicant will design, implement and evaluate educational programming based on basic and applied research and the needs of growers and Michigan fruit industry groups; ensures dissemination of research-based information through various methods, including multi-media, personal education and written articles; provide growers, processors and agri-business professionals with the knowledge to profitably produce fruit crops while minimizing environmental impact, contributing to the short- and long-term viability of farms, the economic well-being of Michigan growers, and the nutritional well-being of Michigan citizens; serve as an informational resource for Extension Personnel and clientele. This is a full-time, fixed-term position, renewable on an annual basis, for which funding and performance are factors in consideration of renewal.

Application Process

For additional information interested and qualified candidates should visit the Michigan State University jobs page at www.jobs.msu.edu and search for posting number 1491. Applicants are asked to submit an up-to-date resume/CV and a cover letter that includes the names and email addresses of four professional references. The application deadline is July 16, 2015.

Qualifications

- Master’s degree from an accredited institution in a field of study related to horticulture, entomology, plant pathology or crop science, must be earned by date of hire;
- Three-years’ experience in Extension program delivery 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 tree fruit production;
- Ability to create and carry-out a project plan from development of initial concept to project completion and follow-up;
- Experience with marketing/promotion of educational programs;
- Strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills;
• Experience and proven ability working productively with a team;
• Proficiency in use of technology (e.g. web research, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook for mail/calendaring, distance technology, etc.) for day-to-day work and educational program delivery, record keeping, reporting, team-based communications and overall management;
• Demonstrated success in program development and delivery to diverse audiences/communities including but not limited to race, gender, socioeconomic class, disabilities and other differences;
• Proven ability in establishing and working with a diverse network of constituents and community members across race, gender, socioeconomic class, disabilities and other differences to assist with program development and outreach;
• Understanding of and ability to implement Civil Rights principles and compliance standards;
• Ability to regularly travel within the assigned area and surrounding communities, as well as travel outside the assigned area in order to perform the duties of this position.