Position: Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist  
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service  
Department of Horticultural Sciences

Location: Weslaco, TX

Availability: As soon as a qualified applicant can be found

**Position Description:** The Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences seeks applicants for the position of Assistant Professor and Extension specialist, Local Food Systems. We are seeking an individual to lead a dynamic Extension educational program in horticulture and local food systems. The successful applicant will provide relevant Extension educational programming and technical support in the area of horticulture, with emphasis on local systems from production, to harvest to marketing. Local and regional food systems have been the focus of international horticultural research in developing countries, as these methods are viewed to be efficient for limited resource farmers and require the least inputs for successful production, packing and storage. Major food retailers have recently ramped up expectations for sourcing from “sustainable and local producers”. The successful applicant is expected to develop programs to develop and foster sustainable production systems for larger local and regional commercial operations, and support smaller producers who are proponents of the production of farm to table and locally produced foods. A diverse clientele will be served by local small acreage producers marketing directly to consumers, local markets and/or restaurants. An additional audience is growers interested in development of home and neighborhood gardens in urban residential areas.

**Major Duties and Responsibilities:** Work collaboratively with farmers, county extension educators, municipal officials, and colleagues in Horticultural Sciences and related disciplines to:

- Develop high-quality Extension educational information and presentations in support of county, regional and statewide programs in sustainable horticultural food systems.
- Work with food policy decision makers and other food related/health organizations to address local food issues and food insecurity.
- Establish, conduct, and publish relevant applied research to be published in the popular press, Extension publications and in refereed journals.
- Acquire external support for Extension activities through fee-based programming, contracts, grants, and gifts.
- Develop educational materials (i.e., publications, applied journal articles, curriculum/ handbooks, websites, newsletters/blogs, interactive tools, etc.).
- Support development of and reporting to unit and agency strategic plans focusing on critical issues.
- Support county Extension Agents with development and implementation of outcome plans, programming, applied research and demonstrations.
- Contribute to industry and Extension committees and teams to assist in developing relevant educational programs for targeted audiences.
- Participate in graduate education within the department.
- Participate in national/regional professional organizations.

**Qualifications:**

**Required:**

- A doctoral degree in horticulture or related plant science.
• Evidence of collaborating with colleagues and clientele to achieve common goals;
• Evidence of producing high-quality educational curriculum and materials; and, evidence of successful use of the Internet to deliver educational programs and materials.
• Evidence of having conducted academic research and successfully disseminating results via scholarly publications and presentations.

Preferred:
• Three to five years’ experience in a land grant university
• Evidence of successfully coordinating educational programs, classes, and projects;
• Evidence of successful planning, implementing, and evaluating educational classes, events, workshops, short courses, and other activities

Application Procedure: Applicants should complete a faculty application online at https://greatjobs.tamu.edu – NOV #08945 and submit a cover letter, transcripts, curriculum vitae, and a list of three references as attachments to the on-line application. Applications will be reviewed beginning December 1, 2015.

Direct inquiries to:
Dr. Larry Stein
Professor and Associate Department Head/Extension
1619 Garner Field Road
Uvalde, TX 78801
Phone: 830-278-9151  E-mail: larrystein@tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer

The Texas A&M University System is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, Texas A&M encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.