MSU Extension

Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute; Extension Educator – Vegetable Production

Position Overview

The Vegetable Production Educator position, based in Adrian, MI will have state-wide Extension production and management educational programming and applied research responsibilities.

The vegetable crops team of MSUE works with faculty, specialists and educators to achieve improved vegetable crop production and products, management, decision-making and overall advancement in the industry. This position provides leadership and cooperates in the planning, development and delivery of educational programs and information dissemination for growers, processors and agri-business professionals. The successful applicant will lead educational programs that will help stakeholders gain knowledge to profitably produce and market safe and healthful vegetable crops as well as maintain and improve soil health and fertility in annual cultivated crops, which ultimately will contribute to the viability of farms and the economic well-being of Michigan.

The intended outcome of these programs will be to: maintain a flow of current research-based, technical and crop management information; improve the skills of producers and agri-businesses in the application of research results to their production or marketing situation; help to motivate producers and the industry to implement actions that best serve community and industry interests; and focus on efficient employment of crop management and soil health and fertility practices and work to develop and support agriculture leadership.

As part of this role, the selected individual will work with MSUE/AABI Work Teams and Work Groups to assure commitment to diversity and pluralism at all levels of MSUE/AABI programming and that educational opportunities are equally available to all Michigan residents; create and promote positive public relations for MSUE/AABI at local and state levels; work with community and statewide partners in aligning programs and delivering successful education
programs to Michigan residents; work with statewide AABI Work Teams and Work Groups to effectively plan and implement relevant programming; and serve as an information resource for Extension personnel throughout the state.

This position will also participate in applied research projects independently as well as in collaboration with campus specialists, MSUE educators and partners. This position offers a unique opportunity to work across disciplines on a breadth of research projects.

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 1490. 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. For full consideration please submit applicant materials by Sunday, March 13, 2016.

Qualifications

• Master's degree from an accredited institution in field of study related to horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, weed science, soil science or crop science, must be earned by date of hire;
• Demonstrated willingness and capacity to work in a team focused environment;
• 3-years' experience in educational program planning, implementation and evaluation (experience acquired within the last 5 years is preferred);
• Knowledge of horticultural practices related to vegetable and other cultivated crops;
• Strong interpersonal and oral and written communication skills;
• Ability to accept and delegate responsibility effectively;
• Proficiency in the use of computers in educational programming and management; competence in using technology for program delivery, record keeping and reporting, and team-based communications;
• 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.

**Preferred Qualifications**

· Two years of relevant work experience in Agribusiness, Crop Production, Cooperative Extension, or closely related fields;

· Knowledge and experience in soil science and fertility management.