

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Agricultural Enterprise Educator (#23282)
(Fixed-Term Renewed Annually)

Counties: Northwest Region, Mercer County (based), Area Educator Responsibilities

Office Location: Mercer County Cooperative Extension Office
Leslie N. Firth Learning Center, Route 19
P.O. Box 530
Mercer, PA 16137

Brief Summary of Duties: This individual will function as a member of the northwest region team which is responsible for the organization and implementation of non-formal educational agricultural programs for adults and youth. This person will be responsible for planning, executing, and evaluating a broad educational program for adults in agricultural enterprise profitability, including livestock and other agricultural operations, and supporting related youth programming. The adult program would be conducted in coordination with the region's extension educators and the economic and community development extension program. In carrying out these responsibilities, the individual is responsible to the Mercer County Extension Director and the Northwest Regional Director.

Specific Program Responsibilities:

1. Identify educational needs of extension clientele as they relate to management and profitability of the agricultural enterprise, including livestock and other operations. Develop and conduct educational programs to include, but not be limited to the following areas:
 - ◆ Total quality management systems for improved agricultural profitability.
 - ◆ Optimization of agricultural and natural resource enterprise profitability including alternative agricultural and value-added enterprises that strengthen the rural economy.
 - ◆ Management of biosecurity, environmental and regulatory issues for agricultural and natural resource-based operations.
2. Partner with economic and community development educators to create synergy between programs focusing on profitability of rural enterprises with programs to help revitalize rural communities that are dependent on agricultural and natural resource-based products and services. Foster development of financial resources available as loans and grants.
3. Develop a working relationship and foster leadership with support professionals including veterinarians, agribusiness and ag development organizations, USDA and other natural resource management agencies, and economic development organizations. Also develop relationships with practitioners and other community stakeholders and volunteers.

4. Provide education to develop leadership skills on the regulatory and public policy process and facilitate understanding of regulations, policies and assistance programs through educational programs.
5. Cooperate and collaborate with statewide extension specialists and regional educators in the northwest counties for the development and implementation of a comprehensive agricultural educational program
6. Develop and implement educational programs to meet the needs of resource-stressed agricultural clientele.
7. Serve as subject matter resource for 4-H staff and leaders for the 4-H livestock programs in Mercer County and other northwest counties.
8. Design, conduct, and analyze appropriate demonstrations and trials in the assigned subject matter area.
9. Assist faculty with extension appointments in the development and conducting of in-service training.
10. Maintain close working relationship with the county association board and program planning advisory committees to develop educational programs that are an integral part of the total extension program in the multi-county area.
11. Work with other educators to expand the leadership base for the enhancement of adult and youth agricultural programs.
12. Interpret, disseminate and apply the latest research and technology in the areas of agricultural enterprise profitability, agricultural biosecurity before and after the farm gate.
13. Develop personal plan of action, prepare and submit program and administrative reports as appropriate and assume other programs and responsibilities as assigned.
14. Develop competence and innovation in the use of technology in the delivery and management of extension educational programs.
15. Effectively use mass media and personal contacts to disseminate program information.
16. Ensure compliance with the affirmative action plan. Through public notification and 'All Reasonable Efforts,' make all programs accessible to clientele without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree is required. Candidates need to have one or more degrees in Agricultural Business Management, Agricultural Economics, Veterinary Science, Animal Science, or other relevant degree. A strong academic background or extensive work experience in agricultural business or financial management, or the agriculture industry is preferred. A master's degree is preferred. Candidates should possess appropriate skills in teaching, program development, evaluation, effective communication, managing positive human relations and the ability to work with agriculture clientele.

Rank/Salary: Salary and educator rank commensurate with education, training and experience.

Mercer County Cooperative Extension is a unit of Penn State and as such, offers a competitive and liberal benefits package. This is a fixed-term appointment, renewed annually. Applications are available by writing, calling or emailing bss1@psu.edu, Human Resource Services, 307 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802; telephone 814-863-3452; FAX 814-863-6215. The closing date for accepting resumes and applications is June 15, 2007, or until a suitable candidate has been selected.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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