



Position # 0001-4064

Requisition # 497516

Fruit and Alternative Crops Extension Agent II, III, or IV (Multi-county)

University of Florida/IFAS Extension at St. Lucie County

Fort Pierce, Florida (South Extension District)

Application deadline: June 17, 2016

Position summary

There are approximately 68,500 acres of citrus in Florida's Indian River production area (Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Martin counties), 230 acres of peaches, and 2,500 acres of vegetables. The successful fruit and alternative crops multi-county extension agent will develop, implement, evaluate, promote, and report on comprehensive educational programs to help Indian River and St. Lucie County producers and landowners more effectively interpret and use findings of current science and technology. This agent will be expected to teach the most effective strategies to deal with Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality, water management (e.g., management, marketing, risk management) and other related topics. The agent will also help producers and landowners explore the viability of alternative agricultural crops and enterprises. All county faculty are expected to explore opportunities to supplement state and county fiscal support for Extension programming.

The agent must develop effective working relationships with citrus grower organizations, other fruit and vegetable producer groups, community supported agriculture groups, small farm enterprises, advisory committees, community leaders, media, related state and local agencies, and the general public. The successful candidate will work with other county extension faculty in the South District, other citrus, fruit and vegetable agents, extension specialists and researchers located at the Citrus Research and Education Center (Lake Alfred), the Indian River Research and Education Center (Ft. Pierce), other centers in central and south Florida, and the main University of Florida campus in Gainesville. All extension agents also devote at least 5% of their extension programming to the UF/IFAS 4-H Youth Development program.

Specific extension program focus

- Develop, conduct, coordinate and evaluate educational programs for fruit and alternative crop producers.
- Provide training in agricultural and horticultural Best Management Practices for water resource protection.
- Provide agriculture worker and packinghouse safety training (worker protection standards, farm safety, etc.).
- Participate as a member of the regional Global Gap training team.

- Provide guidance and educational programming on pest management, including insect, mite, disease and weed management.
- Provide educational programs and supervise testing for agricultural pesticide applicators.
- Perform alternative crop variety evaluations for agriculture diversification.
- Assist with educational delivery of innovative marketing strategies.
- Establish and maintain an effective advisory committee to assist with program development and implementation.
- Assist with 4-H/Youth Development fruit crop and horticultural educational programs.

Candidates will be reviewed as applications are received, but please be aware that interviews might not be scheduled until 4 to 6 weeks after the position closing date.

Qualifications

This position requires a master's degree with a strong academic background in plant science, horticultural science, crop science, entomology, plant pathology, soil and water science, agricultural and biological engineering, or a closely related field. A Ph.D. degree is preferred. Candidates must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to deliver public presentations, to produce publications and other materials used in Extension programming, and to work effectively with diverse groups. Experience working in multicultural settings and coursework/training on multicultural topics are also desirable. Candidates must have the ability to form working relationships and teams with colleagues in other counties. Knowledge of and experience with information technology to support the delivery of educational programs is preferred. The agent must be able to acquire and maintain a valid Florida Driver's License, along with the ability to acquire a pesticide applicator's license within 1 year of employment. This position will be housed in St. Lucie County, with agent programming responsibilities in Indian River County. The position will work cooperatively with both St. Lucie and Indian River county extension directors to provide educational programming to the fruit and alternative crops industry.

Application Instructions

Apply through the online UF application system at <http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/497516> , and attach your Resume or CV, as well as a cover letter that describes how your experience and qualifications have prepared you for this position.

TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

You must submit unofficial copies of all transcripts and/or coursework of your academic degrees. You may attach these as an "other" document, or you may submit to our office as directed below. An unofficial copy is acceptable for the application process, but before you can be hired, IFAS Human Resources must have the official transcript for your highest degree on file.

Also, all applicants must have at least three reference rating forms on file. Reference forms must be less than one year old. If you have not already done so, please contact your professional/academic references and ask that they complete a reference rating form on your behalf. The form is located at http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/ref_form.pdf.

Please also complete and submit the Previous Employment Form (located at http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/prev_employment.pdf).

With the exception of official transcripts, all items submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the next business day after the position closing date. All documents submitted by fax or email must be received no later than the next business day. If your official transcripts will arrive after the closing date, you must also submit unofficial transcripts by the deadline.

Requested reference forms and transcripts should be submitted to:

Ms. Dana LeCuyer
UF IFAS Human Resources
Faculty Recruitment and Hiring
P O Box 110281
Gainesville, FL 32611-0281
dlecuyer@ufl.edu
Fax: (352) 392-3226

Final candidate will be required to provide official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered "official" if a designation of "Issued to Student" is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at <http://www.naces.org/>.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida's 'Government in the Sunshine' and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.