Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Commercial Agriculture)  
A1800175  
University of Illinois Extension  
College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

The Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Commercial Agriculture) serves as a regular, full time, 12 month, academic professional with primary responsibility for the development, delivery, and evaluation of educational programs supporting the mission of the University of Illinois Extension. This position will be expected to deliver research-based educational programs, developed in cooperation with Crop Sciences personnel at designated Research Center and campus-based faculty with an emphasis on applied research with commercial field crops. The establishment of professional networks as well as the development of relationships with key stakeholder groups is vital to the success of Extension Educators in this position.

This position will have applied research and outreach responsibilities for the commercial production and management of field crops grown or potentially grown in Extension Region 2, roughly from the western Illinois border; Carroll county to the north and south east to McLean county, and south west to Jersey county. For the purposes of program delivery, the geographic area is statewide.

This position will be expected to collaborate closely with campus based specialists and other faculty in the planning and implementation of research projects with high local relevance to stakeholders. As necessary, Commercial Agriculture educators will be expected to cooperate with campus faculty in the conducting of pest surveys and the dissemination of these findings to clientele.

One full time position is available.  
Location: Northwestern Illinois Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center (Monmouth, IL)  
Additional positions may become available in other locations.

This is a security-sensitive position. Comprehensive background checks, including but not limited to a criminal conviction information check, a CANTS check, and a review of the Registered Sex Offender list, will be conducted.

Specific responsibilities of the Extension Educator, ANR (Commercial Ag) are as follows:

- Cooperate in the conduct of applied research in commercial crop production, interpret and integrate information, conduct educational programs in the field and other appropriate venues, and maintain the competencies to develop and deliver relevant educational programming.
• Assess the needs of local clientele in a systematic and analytical manner. This may include networking and collaborating with other professionals including commercial crop input suppliers and agronomists.

• Within the designated area(s) of specialization, develop innovative curricula and programs to address local needs as well as to mesh with the broader state and national interdisciplinary initiatives.

• Deliver high impact programs to diverse audiences utilizing a selection of innovative delivery mechanisms to optimize reach and effectiveness.

• Develop effective and contemporary approaches to communicate with clientele. This may include constantly evolving electronic technologies (e.g. twitter, facebook, blogs, e-learning, etc.).

• Secure internal and external resources to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact. Cooperation with campus faculty is strongly encouraged in securing resources.

• Establish professional relationships and participate in campus-based partnerships that tie academic programs and research to complement Extension programming by partnering with Extension Specialists and/or faculty members on research projects as appropriate within the initiatives.

• Serve as an effective team member and volunteer for leadership roles as appropriate.

• Comply with all reporting deadlines and requirements (e.g. plans of work, activity and impact reporting, etc.)

• As needed, accept statewide responsibilities as requested by the Program Leader.

• Be an active member within a professional society(s) to keep abreast of changes within your discipline.

• Earn, or maintain, active Certified Crop Adviser certification.

• Continually seek professional development opportunities to enhance competency in subject matter area.

• Assist with and support the total University of Illinois Extension program.

• Facilitate the transfer of locally identified issues to the campus academic team, and cooperate in preparing the State Plan of Work. Cooperate with other Extension educators to prepare a Commercial Agriculture – Crops Plan of Work.

• Comply with all University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies and guidelines in all aspects of Extension work; assist unit staff with data collection for Affirmative Action, Gender, and Targeted reports.

• Perform other duties that contribute to the mission of University of Illinois Extension programming, as assigned.

• Local, regional and (limited) statewide travel required; personal transportation required.

• To perform the functions of this position, the employee will be required to perform work both within an office and outside in the communities that are served, and must have the capability to travel from one location to the other in a timely fashion. Employee is responsible for securing personal transportation. A valid driver’s license is preferred. Some work will be required during evenings and/or weekends. When working, the employee may be exposed to a variety of environmental factors to include, but not limited to, hot or cold weather, exposure to noise and allergens, and uneven ground. In performing the functions of this position, the employee may be subjected to various mental and physical demands as well to include, but not limited to, independently traveling to and performing work at different locations, lifting and moving items that may occasionally weigh up to forty (40) pounds and frequently weigh up to twenty (20) pounds, and twisting, pushing and pulling movements. More detailed information regarding the functions of this position (including the physical, mental and environmental requirements of the
Administrative Relationship: The Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Commercial Agriculture) is administratively responsible to the Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Programmatic Relationship: Extension Educators are programmatically responsible to the Program Leader(s) for the delivery of programs that mesh with identified national and state priorities and to the County Director(s) for the delivery of programs that mesh with identified local priorities.

Qualifications
- Required: Master’s degree required in a relevant discipline from an accredited institution of higher education. Examples of relevant majors include, but are not limited to: field crop production, or crop management emphasis; field crop protection such as weed science, plant pathology, or entomology. Candidates with a Master’s degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date. Experience with education programs. Must demonstrate evidence of strong oral and written communication skills. Evidence of strong interpersonal skills and ability to work within a team environment. Must be able to earn or maintain active Certified Crop Advisor certification.
- Preferred: PhD strongly preferred. Experience within crop sciences, including management of crops, soils, pests, and plant nutrients is highly desirable. Teaching experience in informal and formal settings. Demonstrated ability to build and maintain diverse networks.

Additional Information
The position is a full-time, benefits-eligible, non-tenure, academic professional position appointed on a 12-month service basis. The expected start date is as soon as possible after the closing date. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Generous vacation and sick leave. State Universities Retirement System. Group health, dental, vision and life insurance.

Application Procedure: To apply, go to http://go.illinois.edu/A1800175. Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume as well as the names and contact information of three professional references. Resume dates must be in month/year format and employment history, at a minimum, should include all work dating back to the completion of your undergraduate degree. Positions that were less than full-time/100% must be noted as being part-time. Transcripts may be requested at a later date. To receive full consideration, all requested application materials must be submitted via the online system by the close date of May 4, 2018.

For further information about the position please contact Ryan Hobson at rhibson@illinois.edu. For technical assistance with the online application process, call 217-333-6747 or email jobs@illinois.edu.
The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Minorities, women, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit http://go.illinois.edu/EEO. To learn more about the University’s commitment to diversity, please visit http://www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu.