Location: Unit 18, (Christian/Jersey/Macoupin/Montgomery), West Central Region

The Extension Educator 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. Agriculture and Natural Resources Educators support one of the four core Extension program areas and within that program area may focus on one or more of the following interdisciplinary initiatives: Energy and the Environment; Food Safety and Security; Economic Development and Workforce Preparedness; Family Health, Financial Security and Wellness; Youth Development. Programmatic objectives of Extension Educators will be consistent with national and statewide initiatives considered of significant importance to residents of the state of Illinois.

Extension Educators will be expected to deliver research-based educational programs and to work within team settings that may consist of other Extension Educators, community college professionals, and faculty within and outside of the College of ACES. The establishment of professional networks as well as the development of relationships with key stakeholder groups is vital to the success of Extension Educators. Extension Educators will be expected to deliver educational programs not only within their assigned multi-county unit, but as requested, to clientele within other units.

The Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Horticulture) is expected to concentrate programmatically in Horticulture. This programmatic concentration includes: Development and delivery of high impact and relevant educational programs and materials in the following areas will be required: 1) production and protection of plants in urban and suburban ornamental landscapes, 2) fruit and vegetable production and protection, including organic and IPM plant protection systems. Strong leadership and delivery of programs will be provided to volunteers within the Master Gardener Program.

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 Extension Educators are as follows:

Provide program leadership, interpret and integrate information, teach in the field of designated expertise, maintain the competencies to develop and deliver educational programming, and assist clients with the appropriate resource bases.

Assess the needs of local clientele in a systematic and analytical manner. This may include networking and collaborating with community organizations and other relevant groups.

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.

Evaluate the impact of program initiatives in a planned and statistically relevant fashion. Evaluation plans should focus not only on short-term impacts but also on long-term changes in clientele practices.

Develop effective and contemporary approaches to communicate with clientele. This may include constantly evolving electronic technologies (e.g. twitter, facebook, blogs, e-learning, etc.).
Compete for internal and external resources to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact.

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.

Develop professional collaborations with the County Director and Extension Council Members.

Market and represent Extension’s interests to external partners and stakeholders in areas related to expertise.

Cooperate with the County Director to achieve budget goals and relevant grant initiatives.

Support voluntary educational delivery systems with relevant subject matter expertise.

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.

As requested, supervise civil service personnel.

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

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

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

Comply with all University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies and guidelines.

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

**Administrative Relationship:**
Extension Educators are administratively responsible to the County Director.

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

**Qualifications:**
Required: Master’s degree related to subject matter emphasis from an accredited institution of higher education. Candidates with a Master’s degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date. Strong oral and written communication skills. Evidence of strong interpersonal skills and ability to work within a team environment. Local, regional and (limited) statewide travel required; personal transportation required.

Preferred: Experience within the specialty field is highly desirable. Teaching experience in informal and formal settings. Demonstrated ability to build and maintain diverse networks.

**Salary:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience.
Start Date: July 1, 2011

Closing Date: For full consideration, applications for this position must be completed and all materials submitted through HireTouch no later than April 4, 2011.

Application Procedure: Please create your candidate profile at http://jobs.illinois.edu and upload your cover letter, resume, and the names, email addresses and phone numbers of three professional references by the April 4, 2011 deadline. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered for this position.

For further information please contact Marilyn Brengle at mbrengle@illinois.edu.

Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. (www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu)