

## **Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture Assistant/Associate/Full Extension Professional – Jefferson City, MO**

Please apply at <https://hrs.missouri.edu/find-a-job/academic>

**Job ID: 33350**

### **Job**

### **Description**

**LOCATION:** Jefferson City, Missouri and primarily serves Cole, Osage and Callaway counties in the East Central region, with additional coverage as needed.

The University of Missouri (MU) Office of Extension and Engagement's distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies throughout Missouri. Our dedicated and knowledgeable faculty and staff collaborate with researchers and community leaders to develop and deliver programs that address needs of Missourians including: educational attainment; environmental concerns; community, economic, business and workforce development; global food systems; and health systems. For more information about MU Extension and Engagement, please visit <http://extension.missouri.edu>.

University of Missouri Extension and Engagement faculty and staff develop, deliver, and improve educational programs and services that fulfill the University's land-grant mission to extend the reach and impact of teaching and research to improve the lives and communities of Missourians and beyond.

Extension faculty are 12-month, non-tenure track appointments to the promotable ranks of assistant, associate, or full Extension Professional. The rank at time of appointment or promotion is consistent with the standards of achievement and experience established by the faculty. MU Extension faculty are commonly known as Specialists, with titles that indicate geographic focus and programmatic specialization. Specialists provide educational opportunities that enable businesses, farms, families and communities to strengthen the economy and enhance quality of life. Additionally, specialists create partnerships with civic and business organizations, educational institutions, local leaders and key stakeholders to identify priorities, increase resources, and determine how research-based education can best meet the needs of residents.

The MU Extension's Agriculture Systems and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension program is strategically focused on the goal of improving Missouri's quality of life and enhance the economic viability of Missouri enterprises, while protecting the environment and the state's natural resources. MU Extension research-based programs promote, enhances, and develops efficient and viable production, management and sustainable systems.

### **CORE DUTIES OF EXTENSION FACULTY**

The core duties of MU Extension faculty are to Educate, Create, and Connect. The emphasis among these duties and specific deliverables will vary for different

appointments and evolve from year to year, direction for which is developed in an annual plan of work for the program area and for the individual.

- *Educate.* Extension Faculty deliver onsite Extension teaching and programming, online courses, continuing education, technical assistance, consultation, and other educational methods and interventions. The primary role of all Specialists around the state is to disseminate the knowledge generated by the University through educational programs and services to support the individual, organizational, and community goals of Missouri learners and clients.
- *Create.* Extension Faculty develop innovative and research-informed educational products, services, and materials and scholarly products, including curricula, publications, presentations, and other resources. Extension Faculty contribute to the scholarship of extension and engagement and to applied research, to evaluate and improve how programs and services result in learning and behavior changes that positively impact individuals and communities.
- *Connect.* Extension Faculty engage with learners, communities, and stakeholders including Extension Councils, government officials and agencies, partners, and with university and professional organizations. Strong connections help generate revenue to sustain and grow valued programming through grants, contracts, fees, gifts, and partnerships. Extension faculty intentionally foster diversity and inclusiveness by providing educational programs that connect to the varied needs of Missourians and their communities, through the cycle of market relations including needs assessment, promotion, and feedback utilizing a variety of media and venues.

### **Specialist Emphasis**

*Program specialization:* This position is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating horticulture educational programs in the support of both home horticulture and commercial horticulture production. Topics may include, but not limited to, best management practices, pest control, plant diseases, brush and weed control, soils, irrigation, IPM, pesticide certification, marketing of horticultural crops, Master Gardener program, and water quality. In addition, apply knowledge related to general agricultural in the counties served.

### **Professional expectations**

- All Extension Faculty, regardless of appointment category or type, are expected to demonstrate competency in Communication, Educational Programming and Knowledge of Subject Matter, Inclusivity, Information and Education Delivery, Interpersonal Relations, Knowledge of Organization, Leadership, Organizational Management, and Professionalism.
- All Extension Faculty, regardless of appointment category or type, are expected to actively pursue resources to support both local and organizational operations and programming through grants, contracts, gifts, fees and partnerships.

- Off-campus faculty are crucial to the success of Extension through engagement with local and/or regional stakeholders to identify needs, and then collaborate with appropriate faculty, both on and off-campus, to meet those needs. Off-campus faculty are expected to be involved in the development of applied studies and the subsequent delivery of those findings through, but not limited to, demonstration, field days, workshops, print, digital and other electronic media as appropriate. The percentage of time spent on engagement and applied studies may differ between county engagement specialist appointments and field specialist appointments.
- Actively participate in professional development opportunities to continuously improve skills and increase research-based knowledge. Participate in interdisciplinary teams, committees and task forces. Work with faculty and staff located in county offices, across program disciplines and regions, with boards and organizations and with other campuses throughout Missouri with a positive outlook, high personal standard of excellence, and passion for the mission, vision and values of MU Extension.
- Specialists travel throughout Missouri regularly, using own transportation, with occasional travel out of state. Extension Faculty must work effectively, flexibly, and independently, often with little guidance. Working evenings and weekends is often required to meet the needs of learners, clients, and stakeholders.
- Other duties and responsibilities as assigned to support the mission and purpose of MU Extension.
- Conduct all activities in accordance with the Civil Rights Acts, Title IX, Rehabilitation, Americans with Disabilities Act and local, state and region affirmative action plans.

#### **LEADERSHIP RECEIVED**

Programmatic supervision is received from the Plant Sciences Program Director. Regional leadership is received from the East Central Regional Director.

#### **UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

The University of Missouri, also known as Mizzou and MU, is the Flagship University of the four-campus University of Missouri system. It is the state's land-grant university and one of the most comprehensive universities in the United States. MU's broad undergraduate programs and its' graduate, professional and research programs attract annual enrollment of more than 30,000 students. MU is centrally located in Columbia, MO, which is consistently ranked as one of America's most livable cities. MU Extension and Engagement programs are located on all four campuses and in 114 counties and St. Louis city.

## **Qualifications**

This position requires an earned master's degree in Horticulture or Plant Science with an emphasis Horticulture at time of appointment.

### **Candidates will be evaluated on:**

A doctorate is preferred.

The graduate program should have involved an in-depth study related to production, breeding, post-harvest physiology, pest management or nutrition of horticultural crops or management of turf grass or ornamental plants.

Successful candidates should have had undergraduate level courses related to commercial and home turf, vegetable, tree and fruit production; greenhouse management; landscape design; plant pathology, entomology and soils.

Demonstrated ability to translate research into educational programs in their subject matter knowledge primarily to commercial horticulture production and secondarily to home horticulture, including viticulture.

The programming and technical Effective and innovative teaching strategies that engage others, including strong listening, written, and oral communication skills. Must be able to integrate new and emerging technology into teaching strategies.

Experience in designing, conducting and evaluating educational programs, and applying research-based knowledge in subject matter areas related to community cooperation and collaboration, capacity assessment and action planning, needs assessment, citizen participation, leadership, resource management, and volunteerism is desired.

## **Application Materials**

Complete the brief online application and be prepared to upload:

- Cover Letter
- Resume/CV
- Copies of all academic transcripts, and
- a list of 3-5 references

## **Benefit Eligibility**

This position is eligible for University benefits. The University offers a comprehensive benefits package, including medical, dental and vision plans, retirement, and educational fee discounts. For additional information on University benefits, please visit the Faculty & Staff Benefits website at <http://www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/benefits>

## **Diversity Commitment**

The University of Missouri is fully committed to achieving the goal of a diverse and inclusive academic community of faculty, staff and students. We seek individuals who are

committed to this goal and our core campus values of respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

Equal Opportunity is and shall be provided for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without unlawful discrimination on the basis of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. This policy shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or the recruiting rights of military organizations associated with the Armed Forces or the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America. For more information, call the Vice Chancellor of Human Resource Services/Affirmative Action officer at 573-882-4256.

To request ADA accommodations, please call the Disability Inclusion and ADA Compliance Manager at 573-884-7278.

### **EEO IS THE LAW**

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