



Extension Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach Educator – Van Buren, Missouri

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Job ID 37372

Job Description

MU TITLE: Extension Instructor

HEADQUARTERED: Van Buren, Missouri

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>.

Position Overview

Missouri is blessed with an abundance of natural resources including wildlife, native plant communities, clean rivers, streams, and numerous springs. The state is also an important producer of agricultural commodities. Both are now being threatened by a feral swine. Feral hogs degrade plant communities, soil and water quality, and destroy pastures and crops.

This position augments the existing National Feral Swine Damage Management Program, and more specifically the "Statewide Strategic Plan for Feral Swine Elimination in Missouri". The incumbent will serve all or parts of the following eight counties: Butler, Carter, Oregon, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, Stoddard, and Wayne.

Feral swine are not uniformly distributed throughout the service area, and are generally more abundant in remote areas on both public and private lands. Agricultural crops produced within the Ozark Highland ecoregion are generally more vulnerable to feral swine foraging activity, and crop resources are generally within a couple of miles of state or federal lands, or larger blocks of private lands.

For several reasons, landowner participation is also lower than other parts of the state. To address these challenges, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has entered a partnership with MU Extension to increase landowner awareness and participation in eradicating feral swine from the state's forests and woodlands.

This three-year position will serve as a Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach Educator for private landowners. The position is a 12-month academic appointment, not eligible for tenure.

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. Faculty is expected to assist with recovery efforts during times of natural disasters.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Serve as a team member of the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership.
- Collaborate with other members of the four-person feral hog elimination Extension team and the Ag Systems & Natural Resources Education Director on communications strategies to reach landowners.
- Closely coordinate outreach efforts with the appropriate MDC County Division Supervisor responsible for trapping efforts in a county, and the Branch Director, and Operations Section Chief.
- Develop private landowner working groups in the multi-county area whose goal is feral hog eradication and connect willing landowners with trappers
- Serve as a liaison between the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership and local communities
- Develop and conduct landowner workshops and meetings
- Produce quarterly newsletters for landowners
- Assist county Soil and Water Conservation Districts in loaning remediation equipment to landowners

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.
- Actively participate in professional development opportunities to continuously improve skills and increase research-based knowledge including 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 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.

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.

LEADERSHIP RECEIVED

Administrative supervision and program leadership is received from the Agricultural Systems and Natural Resources Education Director.

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's degree in biology, zoology, botany, or a related field; plus, two years of experience in wildlife management or a related field at time of appointment.

Candidates will be evaluated on:

- A yearly Plan of Work based on partnership goals
- Ability to effectively use social media and information technology to disseminate message to constituents.
- Ability to remain organized, accurate, and dependable with a positive attitude and willingness to work as part of a team.
- Demonstration of strong communication skills when identifying and working with partners, youth, volunteers and community members/organizations to provide a quality program.
- Use of creativity, problem solving and the ability to think on your feet.
- Ability to understand, synthesize and communicate relevant information to diverse audiences.
- The ability to move safely over steep/uneven terrain for an extended period of time.
- Candidates must demonstrate they are authorized to work in the United States. Sponsorship of U.S. temporary employment visas will not be offered for this position.

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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