

Extension Field Specialist in Agronomy – Marion County, MO

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

Job ID: 39329

LOCATION: Palmyra, Missouri with service for Scotland, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Shelby, Marion, Monroe, Ralls Counties in northeastern Missouri. Additional coverage areas or responsibilities maybe added as needed to meet the mission of the University of 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>.

Extension faculty serve for 12-months in 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 Missourian's quality of life, 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.

The goal of Agriculture and Environment Extension is to double the economic value of Missouri agriculture by 2030 while sustaining our natural resources. Regardless of specialty, every position contributes to this goal.

This position will be filled at a 0.90 FTE (36 hours a week).

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.

Specialist Emphasis

- *Program specialization:* This position is responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating educational programs in crop and forage production, plant pathology, entomology, weed science, soil science and overall production agriculture, in addition to applying knowledge related to general agricultural in the counties served. Educational programs may consist of workshops, farm tours, field demonstrations, one-on-one consultations, soil test report interpretation and online programming that provide research-based material to local clients.

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 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.

LEADERSHIP RECEIVED

Programmatic supervision is received from the Plant Health & Production Educational Director. Regional leadership is received from Regional Directors.

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

An earned master's degree in agronomy, soil science or related field at time of appointment. A Ph.D. is preferred but not required.

Candidates will be evaluated on:

College level courses and training in crop and forage production, plant pathology, entomology, weed science, and/or soils.

Demonstrated ability in applying and transferring research-based knowledge in the production and management of Midwest cropping systems is necessary.

Production agriculture experience and/or college level coursework in livestock production, horticulture, agricultural engineering, farm management and accounting is helpful.

Ideal candidate will also have experience in crop and forage production including but not limited to best management practices, pest management (i.e. insect, weeds and disease), soil management, IPM, pesticide certification, cover crops, and water quality.

Successful administrative and leadership experience, particularly in managing fiscal, human, and data resources, is preferred.

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.

Candidates must demonstrate they are authorized to work in the United States at time of hire. Sponsorship of U.S. temporary employment visas will not be offered for this position at time of hire.

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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