



Extension Educator, Agriculture and Agribusiness Commercial Agriculture

WE TRANSFORM LIVES

Everything we do is designed to improve the quality of life of the people in the state of Illinois, across the nation, and around the world. We discover, develop, translate, and disseminate knowledge to address societal concerns and train the next generation of experts and leaders in a way that empowers them to expand the boundaries of science to higher levels of understanding and influence.

Be a part of our story. Through learning partnerships that extend knowledge and change lives, University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs aimed at making life better, healthier, safer, and more profitable for individuals and their communities. Illinois Extension has operated continuously for more than 100 years connecting the citizens of Illinois to their land-grant university by providing educational programming around the state. University of Illinois Extension is based in the College of ACES and works with all colleges and units of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

This position will have applied research and outreach responsibilities for the commercial production and management of field crops grown or potentially grown in the Extension Unit and state. For the purposes of program delivery, the geographic area is both to the Unit and statewide.

The Extension Specialist 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. Extension Specialists 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: Community, Environment, Economy, Food, and Health. Programmatic objectives of Extension Specialists will be consistent with national and statewide initiatives considered of significant importance to residents of the state of Illinois.

This position will be expected to collaborate closely with campus based specialists, educators in the field and other faculty and other members of the Commercial Ag team in the planning and implementation of research projects with high local relevance to stakeholders. As necessary, Commercial Agriculture specialists will be expected to cooperate with campus faculty in the conducting of pest surveys and the dissemination of these findings to clientele. This position will oversee selected Commercial Agricultural programming within the Unit and will have some regional and statewide duties.

Location: Northern Illinois

(Position will be housed in one of the Extension offices served in Northern IL – Location is flexible)

Additional positions may become available in other locations.

Position Overview

Program Development, Delivery and Evaluation

Application Due

September 16, 2024

Proposed Start Date

As soon as possible after the closing date

Salary

Commensurate with experience and qualifications

To Apply

Go To: <http://go.illinois.edu/1026281>

Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume, as well as the names and contact information of three professional references.

More Information

Sponsorship for work authorization is not available for this position. This 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. The previously determined salary range for this position was \$73,000 to \$90,000. We strive to provide a competitive salary while taking into consideration internal equity, candidate experience and qualifications, as well as budget constraints. The final salary offer will be determined through a calculation involving these elements. It is not typical for an individual to be offered a salary at the top of the full range for this position. Generous vacation and sick leave. State Universities Retirement System. Group health, dental, vision and life insurance.

- 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 will 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, by teaming with additional Extension employees and volunteers who assist with program management functions and teaching roles when appropriate.
- Guide program expansion and program quality processes by teaching and providing training and support to employees or volunteers who teach and work within the program area.
- Support voluntary educational delivery systems with relevant subject matter expertise.
- 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.).
- Develop relationships with agricultural businesses, producers, consumers, grower associations, advisory committees, research centers, non-profits, and related agencies to assess conditions, needs, and strategies to achieve program goals and measure desired outcomes.
- Participate with Extension and other staff and clientele in cross-commodity collaborative programming with statewide and regional impact.
- Develop and implements experiments, demonstration trials and plots in collaboration with supervisor and other Extension faculty or staff.
- Manage data collection and data analysis, and prepare related reports, articles, and educational materials for Extension and scholarly publications.
- Supervises, supports, evaluates, and recognizes Master Gardener/Master Naturalist volunteers.
- Comply with all reporting deadlines and requirements (e.g. plans of work, activity and impact reporting, etc.)

Organizational Leadership and Development

- Market and represent Extension's interests to external partners and stakeholders in areas related to expertise.
- Compete for internal and external resources to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact. Includes strategic use of available funds to increase program quality and impact.
- Cooperate fully with the Agriculture and Agribusiness Program Leader to achieve budget goals, address staffing needs, fulfill relevant grant initiatives, report impacts, and carry out all other items relevant to the operation.
- Develop professional collaborations with the campus faculty and staff, field faculty, stakeholders and others as needed.
- Assist with and support the total University of Illinois Extension program.
- Accept statewide responsibilities as recommended by the Program Leader and approved by the Director of Extension.
- Serve as an effective team member and volunteer for leadership roles as appropriate.
- Provide leadership under the direction and in consultation with the Agriculture and Agribusiness Program Leader.
- Perform other duties that contribute to the mission of University of Illinois Extension programming, as assigned.

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

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. Convictions are not a bar to employment. The University of Illinois System requires candidates selected for hire to disclose any documented finding of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment and to authorize inquiries to current and former employers regarding findings of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. For more information, visit [Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct](#) in Prior Employment. The University of Illinois must also comply with applicable federal export control laws and regulations and, as such, reserves the right to employ restricted party screening procedures for applicants.

As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System uses [E-Verify](#) to verify [employment eligibility](#).

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability or veteran status. For more information, visit <http://go.illinois.edu/EOO>.

Scholarship

- 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.
- 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.
- Use research and evaluation findings to create innovative programs and make changes to existing programs in order to improve quality.
- Share principles of evidence-based best practice with peers.

Other Information

- Comply with all University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies and guidelines in all aspects of Extension work; assists Unit staff with data collection for Affirmative Action, Gender, and Targeted reports.
- 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, ability to move, transfer and/or transport 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 position) may be obtained from Human Resources for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) by contacting hr@aces.illinois.edu.

Administrative and Programmatic Relationship: The Extension Specialist is administratively and programmatically responsible to the Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Agribusiness.

Qualifications

Required:

- Master's degree 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. Candidates with a Master's degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date.
- Experience with educational programs.
- 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.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Strong oral and written communication skills. Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work within a team environment. Ability to build and maintain diverse networks.

Application Procedure:

To apply, go to <https://go.illinois.edu/1026281>. Please upload a cover letter, resume, and the names and contact information for three professional references. Resume dates submitted 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 **September 16, 2024**.

For further information about this specific position, please contact Christina Chopra at cchopra@illinois.edu. For questions regarding the application process, please contact 217-333-2137.

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