



Extension Educator, Agriculture and Agribusiness and Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy Evaluation

WETRANSFORM 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.

The Extension Specialist serves as a regular, full time, 12-month academic professional with primary responsibility of supporting program leaders and field staff with developing, implementing, and communicating evaluations and indicators. This position provides leadership for research and evaluation of agriculture and natural resources programs delivered through University of Illinois Extension staff and offices throughout the state. This position integrates program leadership, partnership, scholarship, and public engagement into its everyday practice. Working in collaboration with Extension faculty, staff and partners, this position will lead and consult on applied research, evaluation design, data systems, and strategic direction related to agriculture and natural resources.

Location: Urbana-Champaign Campus
Additional positions may become available in other locations.

Position Overview

Evaluation and Research

- Lead statewide programming evaluation strategy through analysis of agriculture and natural resources program and evaluation data for both internal and external purposes, such as impact reporting and the development of best practices.
- Provide leadership on research methods, practices, and analysis related to program evaluation of agriculture and natural resources programs.
- Develop and support the use of consistent methodology for program evaluation and research.
- Advise and provide support for the research, evaluation and scholarship activities of agriculture and natural resource educators.
- Design and implement evaluation strategies to create impact and public value statements and reports in collaboration with appropriate program leader(s), Extension Communications, ACES, and UIUC.
- Identify strategic data needs and develop data collection systems and instruments, both integrated with and complementary to Extension-wide data systems; develop and implement data collection quality assurance procedures.

Application Due

April 11, 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/1023598>

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

Immigration sponsorship 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. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience, while also considering internal equity. The salary range for this position starts at \$73,000. Generous vacation and sick leave. State Universities Retirement System. Group health, dental, vision and life insurance.

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.

- Oversee the implementation and use of reporting systems for agriculture and natural resources staff and submit required reports as needed.
- Collaborate with program leader(s) in the development of and setting strategic program area goals and initiatives.

Research and Development

- Collect data that contributes to the research-based evidence on agriculture and natural resource programs.
- Conduct and utilize research to inform best practices in agriculture and natural resources programming.
- Conduct literature reviews to stay abreast of the latest research on evaluation and impact measurement.
- Research and disseminate information on impact and valuation metrics related to food production and environmental issues.
- Pursue professional development opportunities to enhance competency in subject matter area.

Program Evaluation Delivery

- Develop strategic summaries and assessments focused on agriculture and natural resources programming.
- Expand and support communication of Extension accomplishments in the areas of agriculture of natural resources targeted to strategic stakeholders.

Partnership Development

- Serve as a liaison with University of Illinois Extension Director of Program Planning and Assessment, the Extension Data Team, and the Communications Team to coordinate efforts toward documentation and organization of collective impact data.
- Serve on appropriate committees and work with appropriate organizations to provide continual communication to improve ANR programming as assigned.

Other Information

- 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.

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/EEO>.

Qualifications

Required:

- Master's degree in a science, social science, education, or other degree relevant to job functions. Candidates with a Master's degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date.
- Demonstrated proficiency in analyzing and reporting quantitative and qualitative data.
- Experience with program evaluation.
- Experience designing or conducting surveys.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate evaluation results to a variety of audiences.
- Experience within the area of agriculture and natural resources.

Preferred:

- PhD in science, social science, education, or other degree relevant to job functions.
- Five (5) years of previous work experience in program evaluation and/or strategic planning.
- Experience with data analysis that aligns with this position and how assessment/evaluation/impact data is gathered, analyzed, and summarized.
- Knowledge of and experience in survey methods and other techniques for gathering quantitative and qualitative data.
- Experience with Qualtrics or other online survey platform.
- Experience with programs used to manage and analyze data, such as Python, SPSS, Excel, or R.
- Familiarity with Cooperative Extension.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills with ability to exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues and make data-informed decisions. Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail. Ability to work both independently and as a team member. Excellent verbal, writing, and listening skills. Openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity to cultural differences, and the ability to interact with all people. Ability to manage multiple projects with competing priorities and deadlines, and an eagerness to take ownership of challenging and open-ended assignments.

Application Procedure:

To apply, go to <https://go.illinois.edu/1023598>. 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 **April 11, 2024**.

For further information about the position please contact search chair Christina Edgington at chrisedg@illinois.edu. For questions regarding the application process, please contact 217-333-2137.

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