Extension Specialist, Agriculture and Agribusiness
Digital Agriculture (Internal Search)

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.

The Extension Specialist, Agriculture and Agribusiness (Digital Agriculture) serves as a regular, full time, 12-month academic professional with primary responsibility for providing leadership for creation and development of comprehensive Extension Programs focused on the area of Digital Agriculture and the application of artificial intelligence for production agriculture. 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 and program development in the specified programmatic target areas. The primary affiliation will be University of Illinois Extension; however, close interaction with faculty from across the university through the Center for Digital Agriculture is expected.

One full-time position is available.
Location: Urbana-Champaign Campus
Additional positions may become available in other locations

Position Overview

Program Planning, Delivery and Evaluation

- Assess the needs of local clientele in a systematic and analytical manner across the state. This may include networking and collaborating with other professionals including commercial crop input suppliers and agronomists to conduct surveys and other needs assessments.
- Develop effective and contemporary approaches to communicate with clientele. This may include constantly evolving electronic technologies (e.g., twitter, blogs, e-learning, etc.).
- Within the designated area(s) of specialization, develop innovative curricula and programs to address local digital agricultural 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. Partner with Extension educators, specialists, faculty, students, and volunteers.

Application Due
September 8, 2021

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/150924
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
The position is a full-time, benefits eligible, non-tenure academic professional position appointed on a 12-month service basis. 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.
Serve as the content expert for educational efforts within artificial intelligence and digital application for production agriculture.

Evaluate program impact for short- and long-term changes in commercial agriculture practices and conditions.

Organizational Leadership and Development

Serve as an effective team member and volunteer for leadership roles as appropriate.

As needed, accept statewide responsibilities as requested by the Assistant Dean/Program Leader for Agriculture and Agribusiness.

Facilitate the transfer of locally identified issues to the campus academic team and cooperate in preparing the State Plan of Work.

Perform other duties that contribute to the mission of University of Illinois Extension programming, as assigned.

Scholarship

Lead and cooperate in the conduct of applied research in digital agriculture, interpret and integrate information, conduct educational programs in the field and other appropriate venues, and maintain the competencies to develop and deliver relevant educational programming.

Establish professional relationships and participate in campus-based partnerships that tie academic programs and research to complement Extension programming by partnering with other Extension field staff and/or faculty members on research projects as appropriate within the initiatives.

Secure internal and external resources to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact.

Cooperation with campus faculty is strongly encouraged in securing resources. Earn and/or maintain active Certified Crop Adviser certification.

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.

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.

Perform other duties that contribute to University of Illinois Extension programming, as assigned.

Local, regional and 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, lifting and moving 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.

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.
Administrative Relationship: The Extension Specialist, Agriculture and Agribusiness (Digital Agriculture) is administratively 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.
- At least 5 years of relevant experience with the development and delivery of agricultural education programs.
- Experience with digital agriculture, including precision agriculture, Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing.
- Evidence of relevant grant and research experience.
- Earn and/or maintain active Certified Crop Adviser certification.

Preferred:
- At least 10 years of experience as an Extension educator within University of Illinois Extension in commercial and/or production agriculture.
- FAA Part 107 Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot certificate.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:
- Strong written and oral communication skills. Evidence of strong interpersonal skills and teamwork as well as the ability to work independently. Ability to work flexible hours and be self-directing. Understanding of land-grant University Extension and demonstrated ability to work effectively within the Extension system.

Application Procedure:

To apply, go to https://go.illinois.edu/150924. Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume, as well as the names and contact information of three professional references. Resume dates 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 8, 2021.

For further information about the position please contact search chair Amanda Cole at amandac@illinois.edu. For technical assistance with the online application process, please email jobs@illinois.edu.