

The University of Arizona
Position Description
Assistant in Extension, Agronomic Crops Integrated Pest Management

Background Information

The Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC) of the University of Arizona maintains focused efforts in Agricultural IPM, Community IPM, IPM Assessment, Pest Detection and Diagnostics, and Pesticide Education. We deploy dynamic Assistants in Extension to help develop and deliver educational programs to clientele in these focal areas. Our Agricultural IPM program includes teams addressing needs in Agronomic Crops IPM (including cotton, alfalfa and other forages, and grain crops), Vegetables IPM (including lettuce, cole crops, and melons) and in Cross-commodity IPM. Energetic faculty and staff from multiple departments, agricultural centers, and counties staff our IPM programs. Our programs are strategically focused on clientele priorities and are well positioned to be competitive for funds regionally and nationally.

The University of Arizona is expanding its Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs through a strategic cluster hire. This University investment in IPM will empower us to reach a broader audience and to put IPM knowledge to work in agricultural and community settings. These new, interrelated positions will enhance stakeholder engagement, extension education, and on-the-ground implementation of IPM in diverse environments throughout Arizona. This strategic cluster hire includes the following positions:

- Assistant in Extension IPM, Vegetables (hired)
- Assistant in Extension IPM, Communities (search underway, job # 46184)
- **Assistant in Extension IPM, Agronomic Crops (current position, job #46356)**
- Agricultural IPM Agent, Central Arizona (search underway, job #45860)
- Agricultural Agronomy Agent, Central Arizona (search underway, job #45860)
- Applications System Analyst / Developer, Pesticide Database (search pending)

Position Description

This position will work with an interdisciplinary team of Extension and research faculty from across the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to develop and implement priority Extension programs for Agronomic Crops Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on a statewide basis. The IPM Assistant in Extension will plan, coordinate, manage, implement, and evaluate Agronomic Crops IPM programs in cooperation with faculty and under the supervision of the Agronomic Crops IPM Leadership Team. Specific activities may include planning and coordinating training events and field demonstrations, teaching, developing Extension publications and other outputs, coordinating and assisting with field research, working with clientele and other stakeholder groups to identify program priorities and evaluate program impacts. Stakeholder focus will include growers, Pest Control Advisors (PCAs), pesticide applicators, and allied industry personnel. PCAs are licensed professional pest managers who advise growers about pest management and write prescriptions for pesticides used on their customer's farms.

Position Status

This full-time (12 month, 100% Extension) position is a year-to-year professional appointment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences stationed at the Maricopa Agricultural Center on the Maricopa campus in Maricopa, AZ. The IPM Assistant in Extension will be directed by the Agronomic Crops IPM Leadership Team. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Position Responsibilities

- Work with clientele and other stakeholders to identify IPM information needs to inform the program planning process.
- Work with the Agronomic Crops IPM Leadership Team to identify and prioritize work tasks and duties.
- Develop, implement, deliver and evaluate relevant Extension programs for Agronomic Crops IPM target audiences using diverse methods and media, and including presentations to colleagues and stakeholders using electronic and print media.
- Creatively apply own knowledge, skills, and experience in IPM to solve problems and deliver solutions for Agronomic Crops IPM end-users in collaboration with IPM and related faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Organize, develop, and assist in on-farm participatory research and demonstration of IPM tactics and strategies in collaboration with IPM faculty and other staff.
- Engage the APMC and relevant teams of faculty and staff to address IPM priorities in Arizona.
- Stimulate, lead, and participate in new and existing efforts to secure competitive funds including grant-writing, budgeting and reporting with assistance and input from other IPM faculty and staff.
- Represent University of Arizona IPM interests at state, regional, and national venues as appropriate.
- Manage and assist in preparing an annual report of all Agronomic Crops IPM efforts at the University of Arizona.

Position Qualifications

Required: Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science, Pest Management, or related field plus 2 years experience with Extension programming. Ability to teach and communicate in a manner appropriate for comprehension and use by a wide variety of diverse audiences; write for clear comprehension by both program clients and academicians; and collaborate productively with peers and professionals both within and outside the University system. Ability to work independently, to interact effectively and directly with stakeholders and team members, and to travel throughout the state and region. Ability to be responsive to changes in the competitive climate of grant-funding. Possession of a valid Arizona driver's license upon employment. Proficiency in use of computers and related technology, including but not limited to word processing, Powerpoint, Excel, desktop publishing software. Possession of a valid Arizona drivers license required upon employment.

Preferred: Master's degree in Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science, IPM, or related field and 2 or more years of experience with Extension programming. Broad interests in IPM with skills, knowledge and education, and/or experience in grantsmanship, program assessment, both written and oral communication, stakeholder interaction, problem-solving research and leadership.

Application Procedure

Apply on-line at: www.uacareertrack.com. Also, email resume / c.v. along with a letter of interest and writing sample to the search committee chair: Dr. Peter Ellsworth, peterell@ag.arizona.edu.

Position open until filled.

As an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer, the University of Arizona recognizes the power of a diverse community and encourages applications from individuals with varied experiences and backgrounds. The University of Arizona is an EEO/AA - M/W/D/V Employer.