

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Performs animal care, crop production, facilities and equipment maintenance and repair, and instructional assistance duties related to the day-to-day operations of farm/agricultural units that support an instructional program.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Establishes routines and performs duties related to the care of livestock units.
Develops feed formulas and mixes; distributes feed and water to animals.
Gelds and breeds animals which may include performing artificial insemination.
Diagnoses illness and provides routine health treatments and vaccinations to animals; secures the services of a veterinarian as required.
Maintains feed consumption, vaccination, breeding, health, and related records.
Gathers and summarizes data related to assigned farm/agricultural units.
Cleans, sprays, disinfects, and makes repairs to animal shelters, feed and water troughs, barns, storage areas, and fences.
Fits tack to individual horses.
Plants, fertilizes, cultivates, waters, cuts or harvests, and stores crops, grasses, pastures, and fruit.
Prunes, shapes, and braces fruit trees, vines, shrubbery, and ornamental plants.
Performs soil analysis and prepares soil for planting.
Prepares and administers fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
Maintains records related to planting, crop production, and crop rotation.
Assists instructional staff by preparing animals, facilities, agricultural crops, and equipment for laboratory demonstrations and exhibits.
Demonstrates techniques and assists students in the operation of various farm/agricultural equipment and proper animal handling.
Provides work direction to students with class projects and student employees assigned to farm/agricultural operations.
Prepares animals and crops for sale and markets them through college or wholesale channels.
Operates various types of tractors and farm/agricultural equipment.
Drives a truck to transport animals and agricultural products to and from the college.
Makes repairs to farm/agricultural facilities and equipment.
Services, repairs, and returns to proper storage all farm/agricultural equipment that is used on a daily basis.
Maintains an inventory of supplies, materials, and equipment.
Prepares requisitions for supplies and materials.
Uses hand and power tools and arc, gas, and mig welders to perform maintenance on a variety of farm/agricultural machinery and equipment.
Makes safety inspections of farm/agricultural buildings, equipment, grounds, and animals; takes corrective action or reports problems to the supervisor.
Assists in the coordination of the use of agricultural facilities for special events, tours, and film crews.
Assists in the maintenance of farm/agricultural shop tools and equipment.
Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

An **Agricultural Technician** applies a working knowledge of the agricultural sciences in performing the full range of duties related to the day-to-day operations of farm/agricultural units that support an instructional program which includes instructional assistance, animal care, crop production, and facilities and equipment maintenance and repair.

A **Farm Manager** plans, supervises and participates in the management and maintenance of agricultural and horticulture activities that support the instructional program at Los Angeles Pierce College.

A **Senior Agricultural Technician** applies a working knowledge of the agricultural sciences while acting in a lead capacity with responsibility for overseeing and participating in the day-to-day operation of farm/agricultural units that supports an instructional program which includes instructional assistance, animal care, crop production, and facilities and equipment maintenance and repair.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a classified or academic supervisor. Functional supervision is received from the instructional staff. Work direction is provided to lower-level agricultural staff and student employees.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Procedures and equipment used in the selection and care of sheep, swine, horses, and beef cattle
- Symptoms of common animal diseases and illnesses
- Basic health and veterinary care
- Principles and methods of soil preparation, planting, and harvesting agricultural crops
- Propagation technique for grains, grasses, vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees
- Diseases and insects affecting agricultural crops
- Applicable state and local laws and regulations related to animal care, crop production, and farm/agricultural operations
- Proper and safe use of pesticides including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides
- Soils and fertilizers used in Southern California
- Methods for the safe operation and maintenance of farm/agricultural equipment
- Methods of cleaning and caring for tack
- Safety requirements for handling hazardous or toxic materials
- Capabilities of computer systems, software, and hardware common to farm/agricultural operations
- Principles of recordkeeping

Skill in:

- The proper and safe operation of farm/agricultural equipment
- The proper and safe use of hand tools and power equipment

Ability to:

- Care for livestock
- Raise a variety of agricultural products from soil preparation through harvesting
- Administer basic health and veterinary care to animals
- Provide instructional assistance to students and instructional staff
- Make repairs to farm/agricultural equipment and facilities
- Effectively and safely operate and make adjustments to farm/agricultural equipment and tools
- Mix and apply pesticides according to written instructions
- Apply fertilizers and soil amendments in proper proportions and sequence
- Do physical work associated with farm/agricultural work
- Keep accurate and complete records
- Give clear and concise instructions
- Follow written and oral instructions
- Effectively utilize computer hardware and software
- Work effectively with students, faculty, and staff
- Learn general and specialized computer applications

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

- A. An associate's degree or its equivalent from a recognized college or university with a major in agricultural science or a closely related field.

OR

- B. Two years of full-time paid work experience in the care of livestock including horses.

OR

- C. Two years of full-time paid work experience in farming.

OR

- D. Any equivalent combination of A., B. and C. above.

Special:

- A valid California Class C driver's license.
- A valid California Class A driver's license may be required for some positions and must be obtained within 60 days of employment.
- Access to an automobile.