

SENIOR AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Acts as a lead and participates in the day-to-day operation of an agricultural unit that supports an instructional program which includes performing animal care, crop production, facilities and equipment maintenance and repair and instructional assistance duties.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Schedules, oversees, and participates in the work of an agricultural unit which includes:

- Performing soil analysis, preparing soil, planting, irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating, harvesting, and storing hay and other forage crops.

- Performing soil analysis, preparing soil, planting, pruning, shaping, bracing, irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating, and harvesting fruit trees.

- Planting, pruning, shaping, bracing, watering, and fertilizing vines and ornamental plants.

- Caring (including preventative and routine herd health practices and administering medical treatments as prescribed by veterinarian), feeding, breeding, sale and disposal of livestock including beef, horses, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, and llamas.

- Operating and maintaining farm machinery, equipment, tools, and facilities.

Determines most efficient work procedures and techniques of assigned staff to ensure timely completion of projects and makes sure that safety standards and procedures are followed.

Recommends changes and improvements in farm operations, staffing, facilities, and equipment.

Answers questions, resolves problems, and maintains work schedules of personnel assigned to a small agricultural unit.

Assists in the coordination of farm operations off-site.

Assists in the implementation of security measures to prevent theft and vandalism.

Assists in the development of the annual budget and makes requisitions for supplies and equipment as needed.

Assists in the coordination of the use of farm facilities for special events, tours, and film crews.

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 equipment and proper animal handling.

Makes or oversees safety inspections of farm buildings, equipment, grounds, and animals; takes corrective action.

Provides training to assigned staff in the agricultural unit.

Gathers and summarizes data related to all farm units.

Maintains records and production reports related to planting, crop production and crop rotation.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

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 an agricultural unit that supports 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 horticultural activities that support the instructional program at Los Angeles Pierce College.

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 an agricultural unit 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 manager or instructional staff. Serves as a lead over assigned Agricultural Technicians, students, student workers, and volunteers.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Farming principles and methods and their application to diversified farm activities
- Basic marketing principles of agricultural products
- 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 operations
- Procedures and equipment used in welding
- Methods for the safe operation and maintenance of agricultural equipment
- Methods of cleaning and caring for tack
- Safety requirements for handling hazardous or toxic materials
- Principles of training
- Basic principles of budgeting
- Organization and management of records
- Operation of computer equipment and software

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS (Cont.)

Skill in:

- The operation of farm equipment
- The use of hand tools, power equipment, and arc, gas, and mig welders

Ability to:

- Provide leadership and technical assistance to others
- Train others in the work of the unit
- Give clear and concise instructions
- Understand, interpret, and apply rules and regulations related to farm operations
- Make recommendations on farm improvements
- Evaluate work methods
- Care for livestock
- Raise a variety of agricultural products from soil preparation through harvesting
- Administer basic health and veterinary care to animals
- Make repairs to agricultural equipment and facilities
- Operate farm equipment and tools safely
- Perform physical work associated with agricultural work
- Keep accurate and complete records
- Prepare accurate reports
- Meet schedules and timelines
- Work effectively with students, faculty, and staff
- Learn general and specialized computer applications

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

- A. An associate in arts degree or its equivalent from a recognized college or university with a major in agricultural science or a closely related field AND one year of full-time, paid work experience in farming or care of livestock and horses. Experience in a lead capacity is desirable.

OR

- B. Three years of full-time, paid work experience which included responsibility for the care of livestock and horses. Experience in a lead capacity is desirable.

OR

- C. Three years of full-time, paid work experience in farming. Experience in a lead capacity is desirable.

OR

- D. Any equivalent combination of A., B. and C. above. Experience in a lead capacity is desirable.

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS (Cont.)

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.