UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Small Farms Cooperative Extension Advisor (Applied Research and Extension)

Serving San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties

Position Overview

Location Headquarters

This position will be based at either the San Luis Obispo or Santa Maria County Office, California.

Purpose. The CE Small Farms Advisor will develop and conduct an integrated program of applied research and extension providing outreach, training, technical assistance, and research-based support for production and marketing of small-acreage specialty crops in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, with a focus on supporting socially disadvantaged farmers and small-scale, diversified farms and conducting research on new and emerging small-acreage crops in the region.

This position will address critical issues related to marketing, compliance with food safety, labor, pest management, and groundwater regulations that affect the economic viability of small-scale family farms in California. The CE Advisor will also provide expertise in soils, irrigation, crop nutrition, and integrated pest management through collaborations with other CE advisors, CE specialists, UC faculty and private industry representatives. The target clientele are producers of small-scale and diversified farms with a large variety of crops that can include vegetables, herbs, berries, subtropical fruits, and new specialty crops for California such as moringa, coffee, and tea.



The CE Advisor will support small-scale, diversified, and socially disadvantaged specialty crop growers with problem solving, field consultations, technical assistance, and applied research with the goals of addressing challenges for small-scale farms including production, marketing, and regulatory compliance. Research that addresses policy solutions to these challenges is encouraged.

This is an exciting opportunity to have meaningful impacts in the communities of the assigned counties and throughout California. The CE Advisor will support small-scale, diversified, and socially disadvantaged growers by addressing current and emerging issues to benefit local growers and across the state. Opportunities abound for research and extension partnerships that link consumers and resource professionals with relevant science-based information and promote effective problem solving. The advisor will also join a team of small farms advisors and community education specialists focused on small farms and will have opportunities to collaborate within the UCANR network of advisors and specialists who are dedicated to making a difference in the communities they serve.

Reporting Relationship: The CE Advisor serves under the administrative guidance of the University of the California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) County Director based in their assigned home county and will work closely with the Small Farms Network to accomplish collaborative goals.



Required Qualifications

Education: A minimum of a Master's degree in plant or crop science, plant physiology, plant pathology, entomology, soil science, agricultural economics, agronomy, horticulture, or a related discipline in the agricultural sciences is required at the time of appointment. Relevant experience in vegetable, berry, and/or subtropical crops or diversified farming systems and a demonstrated understanding of soil science, irrigation and nutrient and pest management is required.

Additional Qualifications

- Live within a commutable distance of the position headquarters

Desired Qualifications

- Demonstrated ability in applied agricultural research and extension.
- Familiarity with specialty crop distribution and marketing and state and federal agricultural regulatory programs.
- Ability to evaluate crop production and management problems, and plant disorders.
- Ability to work with ethnically diverse clientele.
- Ability to plan, implement, and evaluate educational programs and publish applied research.
- Ability to adapt research and extension efforts based on key needs and challenges of grower clientele
- Ability to work with an interdisciplinary team and supervise community education specialist staff.

Skills Required

To be successful, the CE Advisor requires skills in the following area:

Technical Competence and Impact

The candidate should have a deep understanding of key concepts related to specialty crops, soil science, irrigation and pest management and be able to design and implement a program that leads to positive changes and impact within the community and beyond.

Communication

Demonstrated excellence in written, oral and interpersonal communication skills.

Collaboration, Teamwork and Flexibility

Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a team member with others. Able to adapt as circumstances warranted. Promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

Lifelong Learning

Demonstrated commitment to ongoing self-improvement - both professionally and as a person.

Learn more about Skills and Areas of Programmatic Review at:
https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/319460.pdf

About UC ANR

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) consists of a network of scientists and educators working in partnership across the California. We are committed to developing and supporting healthy food systems, healthy environments, healthy communities, and healthy Californians. UC ANR administers UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), which is responsible for program development and delivery in the counties throughout the state of California.

Learn more about

- UC ANR at https://UCANR.edu

UC ANR in Counties

- San Luis Obispo http://cesanluisobispo.ucanr.edu/
  and Santa Barbara http://cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu/
- Our Strategic Initiatives http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/
- Our Public Value statements at https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/2016-2020_Strategic_Plan/Goal_5__Prioritize_programs_and_services/Public_values_statement/
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Further to the above, advisors are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion https://ucanr.edu/sites/Professional_Development/Office_-_Team_Management/Diversity_Equity_Inclusion_Belonging/
- Affirmative Action: Further to the above, advisors are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR's commitment to affirmative action. Learn more of UC ANR Affirmative Action policy: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/

Salary & Benefits

Salary: The beginning salary will be in the Assistant CE Advisor Rank and commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications. For information regarding CE Advisor series salary scales, please refer to: https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/358478.pdf

Duration. This position is not an academic career-track appointment. The initial appointment for this position is for two years. Based upon funding availability and satisfactory performance as evaluated by UC ANR, the term appointment may be renewed with a duration corresponding to available funding. The merit cycle for this position will be evaluated every two years, and/or dependent on rank and step.

Benefits: The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including vacation, sick leave, and approximately thirteen paid holidays per year.

For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at:
https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/index.html.

How to Apply

If interested in this position, please visit: https://recruit.ucanr.edu/ and choose "applicants" (refer to position #21-09)

Closing Date: To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by **October 15, 2021 or open until filled.**

Questions?

Contact Tatiana Avoce; email: tavoce@ucanr.edu

University of California Cooperative Extension

Please note the UC Policy on COVID vaccination and working for UC: For the safety and well-being of the entire university community, the policy will require, with few exceptions, that all students, faculty and staff be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus before they will be allowed on campus or in a facility or office." Please visit https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/07/ucs-covid-19-vaccine-policy.html for more information.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.

As of January 1, 2014, ANR is a smoke- and tobacco-free environment in which smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes), is strictly prohibited.