

Class Concept

This is managerial, administrative, technical work in managing a statewide program in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Employee plans, develops, evaluates, and monitors program goals designed to meet departmental objectives in agri-business and regulatory services. Position develops request for funding, personnel, equipment and supplies. Work requires close cooperation with local governments, other state agencies, and the USDA; and extensive participation on state, regional and national committees and organization.

Work may include other related duties as assigned.

Program areas may include Agronomy, Farmland Preservation, and Plant Pest Administration

In the area of agronomy, this is advanced professional, technical and administrative work involving the development, design, and direction of a statewide service program in Soil Testing or Plant, Waste, and Solution Analysis in the Agronomic Services Division in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA & CS). Employees provide advanced technical support for the respective programs by establishing a scientific database used to interpret analytical results of soil samples or plant, waste, and solution samples. These analyses are used to make recommendations on management strategy, the utilization of farm, municipal and industrial waste, irrigation water and hydroponic solutions for profitable crop production. Work includes responsibility for research in plant nutrition, soil chemistry and fertilizers, and continuing public education. Employees supervise and direct chemistry laboratories for their respective programs. Employees have the authority to make deviations or modifications to established procedures as necessary, or to adopt new methodology for the laboratories. Work includes developing program objectives, goals, and priorities, and developing requests for program funding. Work requires employees to stay current in research literature and regional and national problems. Work may include other duties as assigned.

In the area of Plant Pest Administration, this is administrative and technical work in the enforcement of state laws and regulations regarding the control, eradication, and prevention of economically important plant pests and diseases. Employee administers statewide provisions of the Plant Pest Law, the Vegetable Plant Law, the Biological Organism Law, the Uniform Boll Weevil Eradication Act, the Plant Protection and Conservation Act, the Pest Control Compact, the Bee and Honey Act and the Genetically Engineered Organisms Act which govern agricultural industries. Employee plans, develops and administers a statewide plant pest regulatory program; establishes program objectives, goals and priorities; develops requests for funding, personnel, equipment and supplies. Responsibilities include developing, implementing and evaluating eradication and/or mitigation programs for plant pests and diseases; drafting proposed changes in the laws, rules and regulations; reviewing and commenting upon environmental impact statements issued by other agencies; providing information concerning plant pest programs to various organizations, industry and commodity groups and the general public; and providing technical expertise to field and staff personnel. Work requires close cooperation with local governments, other state agencies, and the USDA. Work may include other duties as assigned.

In the area of Farmland Preservation, this is administrative, technical work and develops overall plans, strategies and policies for farmland preservation activities related to federal and state legislation and regulations. Employee will monitor the department's response to pending legislations and regulations

and prepare written and oral briefs for the Commissioner, and other Departmental officials on a regular basis to maximize the Department's operation efficiency and service to the State. Employee will serve as manager and administrator of the NCDA&CS ADFP Trust Fund for grant development and implementation, as well as responsibilities for staffing, oversight for budget management, preservation activities, annual program of work, record retention, public relations and other related management activities.

Recruitment Standards

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Agronomy

- Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of soil chemistry; plant, waste, and solution analysis; fertilizers; and crop and soil management.
- Thorough knowledge of analytical techniques involved in soil testing or plant, waste, and solution analysis.
- Considerable knowledge of environmental conditions and agricultural practices in the State.
- Ability to plan, direct, and supervise a soil testing or plant, waste, and solution analysis program.
- Ability to analyze and draw valid and applicable conclusions from conditions observed in the field and from research experiments.
- Ability to prepare analytical reports and to organize and present scientific information in a clear and concise manner.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with farmers, homeowners, and other agricultural groups.

Farmland Preservation:

- Considerable knowledge of logic and scientific methods to analyze problems of a specialized nature in environmental systems, engineering, structural design, geology, soil, water, and air.
- Considerable knowledge of land and water management; land use planning; application of engineering practices regarding landscaping; and animal waste management facilities for environmental protection.
- Considerable knowledge of water quality testing and monitoring; soil chemistry; and agronomy.
- Considerable knowledge and understanding of agriculture and agribusiness in North Carolina.
- Considerable knowledge of federal and state legislative processes, laws and regulations dealing with farmland and natural resource protection; including Federal Farm Bill and General Statutes (106 & 143) plus a working knowledge of other legislation and polices such as NEPA, SEPA, CWA, CAA, CAMA, NCAC, etc.
- Considerable knowledge in production methods, management, and administrative requirements for forestry, crop and horticulture enterprises in North Carolina.
- Ability to determine program goals and priorities, and to evaluate program effectiveness.
- Ability to research, interpret and explain applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with state and federal agencies, industry groups, staff, and the general public.
- Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form.

Plant Pest Administration:

- Thorough knowledge of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to plant pests and diseases.
- Thorough knowledge of techniques and terminology applicable to the control and eradication of plant pests and diseases.
- Considerable knowledge of entomology, plant pathology, weed science, crop science, and horticulture.
- Considerable knowledge of environmental conditions and agricultural practices in the state.
- Ability to administer laws and regulations concerning plant pests and diseases.
- Ability to recognize program and policy needs and to develop new or revised programs and legislation.
- Ability to supervise personnel and serve as a consultant to field employees.
- Ability to coordinate activities with a wide range of agencies, groups, and individuals.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with farmers, commodity groups, state and federal agencies, and the public.

Minimum Education and Experience

Agronomy

Doctoral degree in agronomy, agricultural science, horticultural science, soil science, plant nutrition, crop science or a closely related curriculum from an appropriately accredited institution and two years of experience in an advisory, experimental or educational aspects of plant nutrition or soil management; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Farmland Preservation

Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, environmental engineering, agriculture, chemistry, or a closely related curriculum from an appropriately accredited institution and three years of experience in farmland and/or natural resources preservation programs.

Plant Pest Administration

Master's degree in entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, botany, weed science or a closely related curriculum from an appropriately accredited institution and three years of related work experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.