

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, sets and monitors pest detection insect traps throughout the County; identifies plant and insect pests; assists with pesticide inspection and application activities; monitors and reports on project status; provides assistance for Agricultural and Weights and Measures staff; and performs related duties as required.

REPORTS TO

Higher level management or supervisory staff.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

This classification does not exercise supervision over staff.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

The following are the duties performed by employees in this classification. However, employees may perform other related duties at an equivalent level. Each individual in the classification does not necessarily perform all the duties listed.

Follows and uses early detection techniques prescribed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the deployment, servicing, monitoring, and removal of insect traps; establishes and maintains good working relationships with property owners; monitors pest detection traps for glassy-winged sharpshooters, vine mealy bugs and other pests as directed; assists with pesticide inspection and application activities; locates and delineates pests of statewide importance before they become widespread; draws maps; maintains precise records; maintains inventory of trapping supplies; uses GPS to identify trap locations and permit sites; maintains accurate trap records; performs routine maintenance of department equipment, including maintaining all necessary items needed for field trapping operations; provides a variety of assistance to Agricultural and Standards Inspectors, and performs various office and program support tasks; and performs related duties as required.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; walk, stand, or crouch on narrow, slippery, and rough surfaces; stoop, kneel, bend to pick up or move objects; crawl through various areas requiring moving on hands and knees; walk for long distances; walk on sloped ground/floor and uneven surfaces; lift and move objects weighing up to 50 pounds; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, GPS units, telephones, calculators, copiers, and fax machines.

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TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed both in office and outdoor environments; some exposure to pesticides, smoke, weather, gasses, and fumes; continuous contact with staff and the public.

DESIREABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Plant and insect identification techniques.
- Proper setting and use of insect traps.
- Operational characteristics of trapping equipment.
- Common agricultural practices of County crops.
- Principles and practices of customer service.
- Operations, services and activities of office and agricultural settings.
- Applicable state guidelines and regulations.

Ability to:

- Assist with enforcement of agricultural and weights and measures laws and regulations.
- Assist with field inspections and gather a variety of information and data.
- Recognize host plants, including fruit and nut trees, commonly grown in Amador County.
- Read, understand, and implement appropriate information contained in program manuals and policies used by the County, State, and Federal Agriculture Departments.
- Locate suitable host sites.
- Read and draw site maps.
- Keep accurate records and prepare reports.
- Use office and field equipment including computers, GPS units, telephones, calculators, copiers, and fax machines.
- Conduct work with pesticides.
- Work independently.
- Operate an off-road all terrain vehicle.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

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Training and Experience: *Any combination of training which would likely provide the required knowledge and experience is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:*

Education

A high school diploma or GED equivalent supplemented by specialized training in agriculture or pest control.

Experience

One (1) year of performing agricultural technician duties in an agricultural environment is desirable.

Special Requirements

Possession of an appropriate, current, and valid California Driver's License issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Knowledge of and ability to apply the CDFA Trapping Manual and Pierces Disease Program guidelines as established by the State of California.