



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Petersburg, Virginia 23806

JOB OPPORTUNITY Full-Time

Laboratory & Research Specialist II – Plant Science Technician

Academic/Administrative Unit: College of Agriculture – Agricultural Research

Salary Range: \$35,278-\$53,827

Position Number: 00795

Open Date: 2/10/21

Closing Date: 2/17/21

Purpose: The Laboratory and Research Specialist II will assist in the implementation of Plant Science research projects. The incumbent will assist in the development of field plot preparation, planting, pest control, data collection and harvesting field research plots. Offering logistical and research-based information and support to limited-resource farmers.

Duties & Responsibilities: The position will assist in plant science field and greenhouse research while carrying out the mission of COA - Agricultural Research Station. The successful candidate will assist in field plot preparation, field lay out, planting, pest control, data collection and harvesting. The incumbent will operate tractors, sprayers, combines and other farm equipment needed for field plant science research; clean and maintain farm equipment, assist in maintenance of facilities such as greenhouses, storage places, laboratories and other structures. Other duties will include data collection, record keeping, and supervision of hourly and student labor.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in Horticulture, Agronomy or closely related field or a combination of education and practical experience is required. Applicants MUST have demonstrated prior experience working with heavy farm equipment. Utilization of tractors, harvesters, tillers, fertilizers/sprayers and other agricultural based equipment. Ability to coordinate and plan with other departments and agencies. Demonstrated experience/skills with modern fertilizer spreaders, balers, combines, threshers, and trucks. Balance conflicting priorities in order to manage workflow, ensure the completion of essential projects, and meet critical deadlines. Knowledge and skills in operating farm tractors and small plot combines; knowledge and skill in plant care, such as fertilization, pest control and irrigation; experience and/or ability to learn the skills needed to operate various field research equipment such as pesticide sprayers, planters, cultivators, tillers and harvesters is required. Knowledge using Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.). Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively both written/orally. Experience in electronic/paper file and record keeping. Understandings of both state, federal, and university policies and procedures.

Preferred Qualifications: A valid driver's license is required. A valid Virginia pesticide applicator certification is preferred and/or have the ability to obtain such certification within a year.

HOW TO APPLY: Virginia State University will accept applications through the online Recruitment Management System (RMS) at <https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov>. **E-mailed, faxed and mailed applications will not be accepted.**

The selected candidate(s) will be subject to an extensive and complete criminal background check, which may include fingerprinting. Candidate may be required to complete a Statement of Personal Economic Interest as a condition of employment, if applicable.

Position is Restricted Due To Funding Sources

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WOMEN, MINORITIES, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND VETERANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.