

IMPERIAL COUNTY

CLASS TITLE: AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT / STANDARDS TECHNICIAN

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of an Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist IV, perform a variety of activities in the storage and general maintenance of Department vehicles and equipment; assist with the inspection of various weighing and measuring devices and farm products to assure compliance with State standards; perform a variety of duties related to the detection, control and eradication of weeds, plant diseases and insect pests; maintain various records related to assigned activities.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

Perform a variety of activities in the general maintenance of Department vehicles and equipment; store equipment and supplies in appropriate areas in accordance with established standards; maintain facilities, stored traps, testing equipment, tools and other items in a clean and orderly condition.

Assist with the inspection of various scales and measuring devices including small scales in markets, large vehicle and livestock scales, and large and small metering devices to assure compliance with State standards; assist in the calibration of equipment and devices to established standards.

Assist with the inspection of fruits and vegetables to assure compliance with the State Food & Agriculture Code and other requirements; obtain necessary State inspection certificates; assure proper disposal of non-compliant produce according to legal guidelines; follow procedures for homeland security during port activities.

Set up, maintain and service a variety of pest detection traps; conduct visual surveys in the detection of plant disease and exotic pest infestations; maintain accurate survey maps and data records; assist in the delimitation, control and eradication of exotic pest infestations; prepare daily work summaries; inform and confer with property owners regarding pest detection, control and eradication activities.

Compile information and maintain a variety of records related to maintenance, inspections, storage, homeland security, maps, weeds, weights and measures, pest detection and control, eradication activities, and assigned duties.

Assist with weed eradication; survey for weed infestation; spray and apply herbicides used for weed eradication utilizing proper safety equipment and established safety practices; observe and record infestation levels and type and amount of herbicides used; collect and preserve weeds for proper identification and reference purposes.

Operate a variety of equipment such as refractometers, microscopes, GPS units, hydraulic booms, chemical sprayers, aspirators, and a variety of hand and power tools; service various equipment to assure safe operating condition; drive a vehicle to conduct work.

Communicate with County personnel, various outside agencies and the public to exchange information and resolve issues or concerns.

Assist in compiling weather information as assigned; assist with the construction and maintenance of weather shelters; take temperature readings as required.

Assist with the collection of insects; prepare and store insects according to established procedures.

Keep current concerning new exotic insect pests, plant diseases, and aquatic and terrestrial weeds of concern and related symptoms or methods of identification and survey methods.

Draw, read and interpret detailed maps including survey areas, trap locations, infestation areas and survey results.

Work with and dispose of hazardous waste in accordance with established laws, regulations, policies and procedures.

Attend training sessions to receive instruction in agricultural or weights and measures laws, regulations, methods, techniques and procedures.

OTHER DUTIES:

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:**KNOWLEDGE OF:**

Various types of weeds, insects and vertebrates and related eradication methods.

Basic operation of weighing and measuring devices.

Chemical application procedures, methods and related safety practices.

Methods of insect and plant collection procedures and preservation.

Correct English usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.

Proper methods of storing equipment, materials and supplies.

Oral and written communication skills.

Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.

Health and safety regulations.

Record-keeping techniques.

Basic mathematic skills.

Proper lifting techniques.

ABILITY TO:

Perform a variety of activities in the storage and general maintenance of Department vehicles and equipment.

Assist with the inspection of various weighing and measuring devices and farm products to assure compliance with State standards.

Perform a variety of duties related to the detection, control and eradication of weeds, plant diseases and insect pests.

Learn, interpret and apply applicable federal, State and County laws, regulations and codes.

Learn and apply methods of inspecting large and small scales and meters.
Operate a variety of equipment including chemical sprayers and hydraulic booms.
Learn to recognize various plant products, plant quality, pests, life stages and disease symptoms.
Maintain various records related to work performed.
Meet schedules and time lines.
Observe health and safety regulations.
Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
Perform basic math and statistical computations.
Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: graduation from high school and one year pest control, agricultural or related experience.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Valid California driver's license.
Some positions may require incumbents to obtain a valid California Class B driver's license.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:

Indoor and outdoor work environment.
Seasonal heat and cold or adverse weather conditions.
Exposure to fumes, dust, odors, oil, grease and gases.
Driving a vehicle to conduct work.
Evening or variable work hours.
Adverse weather conditions.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate a variety of equipment.
Hearing and speaking to exchange information.
Seeing to conduct inspections and read a variety of materials.
Sitting or standing for extended periods of time.
Lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling heavy objects as assigned by the position.
Reaching overhead, above the shoulders and horizontally.
Bending at the waist, kneeling, crouching.
Walking.

HAZARDS:

Exposure to chemicals used in pest control and weed abatement.
Working around and with machinery having moving parts.
Exposure to pollen, allergens, insects, bees, fuels and fertilizers.