

ENTOMOLOGICAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Work in this class involves the planning, development and implementation of entomological programs used to combat new plant pests introduced into North Carolina as part of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Section.

Employee formulates implements and evaluates program guidelines, procedures and timetables associated with the principal programs including the Gypsy Moth, Boll Weevil, Sweetpotato Weevil and Imported Fire Ant Programs. Employee provides technical support in the development and design of survey programs when a new pest is introduced into North Carolina including greenhouse and field operations. Employee interprets data and determines data application to the control of the pest, determines the method of treatment and restrictions to be placed on regulated commodities. Employee determines program needs and priorities, serves as a technical resource to co-workers and the public, trains field personnel, conducts method development, and coordinates survey and quarantine work with other state and federal agencies. Work requires the development of programs, policies, and procedures, and writing and/or revising laws, rules, and regulations. Employee maintains close contact with state and federal agencies, industry groups, professional and civic organizations, extension agents, the nursery and agricultural community, and the general public. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Plant Pest Administrator and is evaluated through review of written reports and periodic conferences regarding program effectiveness. Employee performs related work as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Thorough knowledge of state and federal laws, regulations and programs pertaining to entomological programs. Considerable knowledge of entomology with emphasis on pest management. Considerable knowledge of pest control methods and application equipment. Considerable knowledge of agricultural practices in the state as well as knowledge of movement of agricultural commodities in national and international commerce. Considerable knowledge of environmental principles and sensitivities. Ability to interpret and apply state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Ability to conduct laboratory, greenhouse and field research of an applied nature and analyze results using appropriate statistics. Ability to compose technical documents, laws, rules and regulations and to communicate these effectively. Ability to train staff in a variety of regulatory and service activities, and to serve as a technical consultant to field personnel. Ability to identify insects and insect materials. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with state and federal agencies, related industry and university personnel, extension agents, nursery and agricultural groups, agricultural research personnel, and the general public. Ability to communicate effectively.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Master's degree in entomology 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.

Special Note - This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.