

## REGIONAL AGRONOMIST

This is technical fieldwork in the Agronomic Services Division in the interpretation of laboratory test results, assisting in the implementation of laboratory recommendations, and in promoting the services of the division.

Employees interpret laboratory test results rendered by the Soil Testing Laboratory, the Plant/Waste/Solution Laboratory, and the Nematology Laboratory and explain management recommendations to the agricultural community and the general public. Employees assist in the implementation of the management recommendations. Employees explain and promote the services of the division; conduct and evaluate field research projects on an independent basis and in conjunction with other professionals; and provide feedback to the Section Chiefs and the Director on the effectiveness of recommendations and the needs of the agricultural community. Work requires employees to stay abreast of new technologies and changes in cultural practices. Employees work in a geographic region of the State under the supervision of the Agronomic Services Division Director. Work may include other duties as assigned.

### I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Work includes interpreting laboratory test results; explaining management recommendations; possibly modifying recommendations; assisting in the implementation of these recommendations; explaining and promoting the services of the division via personal contact, formal presentations, and the news media to industry groups, growers, county extension agents, and other interested groups; conducting and evaluating field research projects independently and in conjunction with other professionals; and providing feedback to the Section Chiefs and the Director on the effectiveness of management recommendations and the needs of the agricultural community.

Intricacy - Work requires consideration of several factors when interpreting laboratory results and explaining and/or modifying management recommendations, including visual examination of field and surrounding fields, resources available to individual, cultural practices, runoff problems, environmental concerns, and other pertinent information provided by the individual.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires an understanding of soil chemistry; reactions of soils to fertilizers, lime, and other additives; nutrient interrelationships within plants and in the soil, a knowledge of plant diseases and insects and how they relate to plants; an understanding of environmental issues and practices to prevent damage to the environment; a general understanding of agricultural practices within their assigned region, and other related technical knowledge.

Guidelines - Guidelines include scientific notes for a variety of crops grown in North Carolina, journals, bulletins, agricultural chemicals manual and other related research data.

### II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Work assignments are generally understood. Employees plan and execute daily work as well as short-range projects with minimal instruction.

Nature of Review - Overall accomplishments are periodically reviewed through monthly activity reports and meetings. The quality of technical assistance provided can be judged by the outcome of management recommendations and by comments from users. Special projects are reviewed at various stages and upon completion.

Scope of Decisions - Decisions affect individual growers, commercial growers, industries and municipalities, ranging from small operations to very large operations.

Consequence of Decisions - Work may have a significant and immediate financial impact on a grower through decreased crop yield, and a long-term impact on the quality and future use of soil, as well as an impact on the environment and natural resources.

### III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Employees have frequent contact with individual growers, county extension agents and other agricultural specialists and groups.

Nature and Purpose - Work involves explaining tests results, management recommendations, sampling procedures, testing procedures, and advantages of using the agronomic programs.

### IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Work is generally performed outside in a field and on the premises of individual growers, industry, and municipalities. A considerable amount of time is spent traveling from one work site to another within an assigned region.

Hazards - Employees have exposure to inclement weather, agricultural chemicals and mechanized farm equipment and the likelihood of severe or fatal injury is very small if safety precautions are followed.

### V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of plant morphology and soil chemistry. Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of plant pathology, nematology, crop and soil management. Considerable knowledge of crops, cultural practices, problems and environmental conditions in the area of assignment. Ability to analyze, evaluate, and draw valid conclusions from conditions observed in the field, and from the reports of plant nutrition and nematode experiments. Ability to prepare analytical reports, and organize and present scientific information in a clear and concise manner. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with growers, industry personnel, and agricultural groups.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Graduation from a four-year college or university with a major in soil science, crop science, or agronomy including a strong science orientation and three years experience in the experimental or educational aspects of soil management; 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.