

AGRICULTURAL AND STANDARDS INSPECTOR III

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to perform routine and complex investigations and enforce laws and regulations pertaining to the California Food and Agricultural Code, Business and Professions Code, and the California Code of Regulation; to provide training for less experienced staff; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the advanced experienced working level in the Agricultural and Standards Inspector class series. Incumbents are expected to be licensed and work in all of the fields requiring State licensing to County agricultural and weights and measures inspection and enforcement. Assignments may also include lead direction and training responsibilities.

REPORTS TO

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measure or Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

Supervision of Agricultural and Standards Technician, Agricultural and Standards Inspector I / II as needed

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ESSENTIAL TASKS

- Develops effective working relationships with the agricultural and business communities; provides customer service in compliance with departmental policies.
- Prepares and maintains records of inspections and analyzes statistical reports; gathers evidence for appropriate enforcement action by the department; initiates corrective actions as needed; testifies in court and hearings as needed.
- Assists in preparing illness investigation reports and in conducting crop loss complaint investigations.
- Inspects fruits, nuts, vegetables, honey, eggs, or other agricultural commodities in markets, packinghouses, and storage areas for compliance with regulations related to standards and grades.
- Inspects and monitors petroleum octane, labeling, price signs, and advertising to ensure accuracy and compliance with regulations; tests for sediment and water contamination in petroleum fuels.
- Inspects and certifies agricultural products and commodities for compliance with State Codes and Regulations; regulates, inspects, and approves producers, markets, apiaries, nurseries, and growers; monitors and accredits grain and seed mills.
- Assists in the inspection of commodities being shipped to foreign countries and other states.
- Issues certificates of inspection.
- Audits records of growers, pest control operators and dealers; investigates pesticide illness and crop loss episodes; licenses and regulates agricultural pest control applicators and operators.
- Inspects nurseries for plant pests and diseases.
- Inspects apiaries for presence or absence of bee diseases; collects and submits samples.
- Identifies agricultural pests and diseases; enforces plant quarantine regulations; assists in the detection, eradication, and control of pests and diseases; collects various agricultural samples for delivery to State lab for testing and identification.
- Conducts pesticide use enforcement; inspects and issues pesticide permits to growers and pest control operators; maintains permit control records on computer; registers pest control advisors and pilots.
- Inspects incoming plant shipments for evidence of disease, pests, or noxious weed seeds.
- Issues pesticide permits and may inspect pesticide application to crops; inspects apiaries.
- Inspects pesticide containers, equipment, applicators, and storage facilities; regulates the use of restricted and non-restricted pesticides.
- May operate trucks, spray rigs, and other equipment.
- Operates a variety of specialized equipment, including gas, petroleum, and electrical meter test apparatus, heavy capacity weight truck, hydraulic crane, and weight dolly.
- May apply herbicides for weed and brush control.
- Conducts weed control on roadsides and other County-owned rights-of-way; calibrates, maintains and repairs spray equipment; mixes chemicals for weed control use.
- Inspects, tests and seals commercial weighing and measuring devices.
- Weighs, measures and counts the contents of packaged commodities to verify the accuracy of labels.

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- Tests, samples, and weighs packaged retail and wholesale commodities for compliance with weights and measures laws and regulations; issues off-sale orders as required.

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ESSENTIAL TASKS – continued:

- Inspects and investigates weigh master licenses.
- Investigates complaints related to consumer transactions.
- May provide training for less experienced staff.
- Development and administration of grants.
- Performs general office work as required, including but not limited to preparing reports and correspondence, entering computer data, copying and filing documents, answering the phone, assisting the public, etc.
- Perform related duties as assigned.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; walk, stand, or crouch on narrow, slippery, and erratically moving surfaces. Stoop, kneel, bend to pick up or move heavy objects; physical ability to lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 lbs. May crawl through various areas requiring moving on hands and knees; walk for long distances; walk on sloped ground/floor and uneven surfaces. Need normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed both in office and outdoor environments; some exposure to controlled and hazardous substances; some exposure to smoke, gases, and fumes; continuous contact with staff and the public.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Pertinent State and Federal laws and regulations related to the functions of the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Sealer of Weights and Measures.
- Law enforcement powers, procedures, and policies of the County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures.
- Proper inspection methods and procedures.
- Statistical testing techniques.
- Construction, mechanics, and operation of scales, meters, and other weighing and measuring devices.
- Proper packaging and identification of commodity contents.
- Treatment and control of plant pests and diseases.
- Agricultural practices of County crops.
- Principles of training and program coordination.
- Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, etc.)

Ability to:

- Interpret and enforce agricultural and weights and measures laws and regulations.
- Impartially perform field inspections and gather a variety of information and data.
- Provide training for other staff.
- Perform specialized work assignments.
- Gather and maintain information concerning County crops.
- Prepare and maintain records and reports.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions and policies.
- Work independently.
- Maintain effective communications and good relations with the public.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
- Operate trucks, dollies, cranes, ATVs, spray trucks, and other necessary equipment in an efficient and safe manner.
- Travel extensively throughout Plumas and Sierra counties.

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Training and Experience:

Qualifications needed for this position:

Possession of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university with a specialization in one or more appropriate disciplines in agricultural, biological, chemical, or physical sciences as approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Per State of California Food and Agricultural Code Section 2106, 2101, 2102, or 2103.

Two (2) years of experience comparable to that of an Agricultural and Standards Inspector II in the County.

Special Requirements:

Possession of all eight* Agricultural Biologist and Weights and Measures Licenses of eligibility as a County Agricultural or County Weights and Measures Inspector as determined by the Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures. Maintenance of required licenses is a condition of continued employment.

Must have valid and current California Qualified Applicator Certificate issued through California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

**Core Licenses: Pesticide Regulation, Investigation and Environmental Monitoring, Integrated Pest Management, Commodity Regulation, Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation, Weight Verification, Measurement Verification, and Transaction and Product Verification.*

Position requires certification within one (1) year and maintain an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) accreditation by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services.

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Driver's License by the time of appointment and maintained throughout employment. The Commissioner/Sealer may require possession of a Commercial Driver's License based upon the program needs of the department.

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through State law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all Disaster Service Work-related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.

