

AGRICULTURAL AND STANDARDS TECHNICIAN I

DEFINITION

Under direction of the Agricultural Commissioner, supervises, coordinates and participates in inspection work involved in the enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to pest prevention, plant quarantine, pesticide use, apiary, vertebrate pest weed control and produce/egg quality, as well as those pertaining to weights and measures, petroleum products compressed gases, and related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry and training level position in the Agricultural and Standards Technician class series. Incumbents often work under the guidance of other Department staff until they become familiar with the Department's methods, procedures, and policies.

REPORTS TO

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner or Agricultural Commissioner Sealer of Weights and Measures or receives direct or general supervision from assigned supervisory or management personnel.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

NONE

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Prepares and applies chemical solutions along roadways and on other properties for the control and eradication of noxious weeds.
- Cleans and maintains truck and equipment to ensure proper working condition; performs minor repair work to equipment, as needed.
- May drive to specific locations to place and services pest detection traps, verifies plan production, storage or marketing of agricultural commodities, and collects crop samples from production, processing or storage sites.
- Operate a variety of vehicles and special equipment, including personal protective equipment, power and hand tools, microscopes, test equipment, pesticide sprayers, testing standards.
- Performs pest detection duties throughout Plumas and Sierra Counties.
- Prepares and submits daily work records and as required.
- Maintains accurate field notes, calculations and reports.
- Assists Agricultural/Weights & Measures Inspector(s) in various programs within the department.
- Assists in the detection, eradication, and control of pests and invasive weeds.
- Must follow safety protocol and maintain excellent public relations at all times.
- May perform other duties as assigned.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

While performing the duties of this job, the employee must have the ability to exert significant physical effort, such as walking, standing, climbing ladders, traversing uneven terrain, moderate to heavy lifting, and performing manual labor; moderate dexterity in the use of fingers, limbs and body in the operation of spray equipment and various tools. Requires the ability to maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception required for making observations and communicating with others.

Employee must also possess the mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment; to operate a motor vehicle and to visit various County sites; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone. Positions in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects up to 50 pounds frequently, necessary to perform job functions.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Employees may work in an office environment with moderate noise levels and controlled temperature conditions. Field work may be exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot

temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road hazards, vibration, confining workspace, chemicals, mechanical, and/or electrical hazards, and hazardous physical substances and
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fumes. Employees may interact with upset public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Modern office practices, methods and computer equipment
- Record keeping principles and procedures
- Tools, methods and equipment pertaining to county agricultural and weights and measures inspection
- Local agricultural industry and practices
- Basic entomology, botany, biology, and physical science

ABILITY TO:

- Maintain accurate and legible field notes and prepare routine reports
- Use standard computers and software and apply basic computer skills
- Understand and follow oral and written instructions
- Read and follow maps
- Make accurate arithmetic computers
- Maintain cooperative relations with peers and the public and ability to work independently in the field
- Some knowledge of controlling and eradication of agricultural pests is desirable
- Use of basic mechanic tools
- Basic mathematical formula

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATION

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications needed for this position:

Use of modern office practices, methods and computer equipment, computer applications related to the work, and capability of traveling outside of the County for training opportunities.

Equivalent to graduation from high school. Some experience in weed or pest abatement is desirable.

SPECIAL REQUIRMENTS

Possession of an appropriate California Driver's License issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles. The valid California Driver's License must be maintained throughout employment.

Must possess or obtain a valid California Qualified Applicator Certificate within twelve months of appointment.

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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.