Position Announcement
Extension Educator – Ornamentals

The College of Agricultural Sciences is seeking an individual trained in entomology or related plant or biological science with a strong knowledge of ornamental pest management to join our nationally recognized Penn State Extension Horticulture Team. The individual will be responsible for actively working with the team, under the direct supervision of the Director of Special Programs, to identify important pest management issues with Spotted Lanternfly populations associated with ornamental plants, conduct applied research to address these questions and work with other extension educators in the development and implementation of educational events and materials that support these objectives. The successful candidate will be expected to work closely with university based Spotted Lanternfly research faculty and staff and county-based extension educators in developing and conducting applied research that is relevant to clientele needs. Primary applied research duties will include conducting needs assessment for the green industry, designing experiments, locating sites and plant material, mixing and applying pesticides to ornamental trees and shrubs; gathering efficacy data, monitoring health and disease in treated plants; monitoring the impact of applied insecticides on target and non-target invertebrates and vertebrates, analyzing data and sharing results. The successful candidate will have a general understanding of entomology, ornamental horticulture, the principles of integrated pest management and pesticide application and use. The individual will be expected to contribute to efforts to contain and manage the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly and provide Integrated Pest Management solutions.

The individual must be able to work effectively on a team and with diverse populations and audiences. The successful candidate will need to develop and/or participate in interdisciplinary collaborations across multiple areas within the College and with other institutions. All team members are expected to participate in the development of a diverse external funding portfolio (e.g. grants, contracts, cost recovery, development) in support of the team’s programs. The individual will be expected to contribute to original content to engage audiences through innovative educational methods such as online courses, videos, mobile apps, and electronic publications in addition to traditional publications and in-person presentations. Major responsibilities will be contributing to planning, implementing, conducting and evaluating a broad educational program for homeowners and supporting horticultural industries.

Typically requires a Bachelor’s degree or higher (Master’s degree preferred) or higher plus one year of related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. The successful individual must possess skills for teaching, applied research, and data analysis and reporting. The candidate must demonstrate positive human relations and effective communication skills necessary to work effectively with team members, farmers, industry representatives, government officials, and the general public. Excellent verbal and written communications skills are required in English and valued in Spanish. Proficiency in
the use of computer software packages such as Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint are required. Must possess a valid driver’s license, use of a private automobile, and the ability and desire to travel. Since this position requires that you operate a motor vehicle as part of your job duties, successful completion of a motor vehicle records check will be required in addition to standard background checks. This individual must be able to drive a truck, work outdoors in all weather conditions, and navigate uneven terrain. This work will require that the successful applicant have or obtain within 90 days from date of hire a Pennsylvania State Pesticide Applicators license, and performance of insecticide trials within the current Spotted Lanternfly quarantine area (Berks county and surrounding region). Must be available to work some weekends and holidays on a rotating schedule with other team members. This full-time position is funded for one year with good possibility of re-funding. This position is an opportunity to join one of the nation’s leading extension organizations at a time when it is embarking on an exciting new business model that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation.

Location: Penn State Berks County Extension

To apply: Submit your application at https://psu.jobs/job/86259

Contact information: If you have questions or need further information about the position, please contact Dennis Calvin, Associate Dean and Director of Special Programs, Penn State Extension, University Park, PA 16801. E-mail: dcalvin@psu.edu

To review the Annual Security Report which contains information about crime statistics and other safety and security matters and policies, please go to https://police.psu.edu/annual-security-reports, which will also explain how to request a paper copy of the Annual Security Report.

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