

## **Associate Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Salary Range - \$45,000 - \$65,000

Closing Date: Until filled by Qualified Applicant

Start Date: As soon as possible thereafter

**Work type:** Administrative & Professional

**Senior management:** Agriculture & Life Sciences

**Department:** Northwest District Coop. Extension

**Location:** Lovingston, Virginia - Nelson County

**Categories:** Agriculture / Life Science

### **Job Description**

Nelson County is located in Central Virginia midway between the metropolitan areas of Charlottesville and Lynchburg. The county has a total area of 471 square miles. It is bordered on the south and east by the James River and on the north and west by the Blue Ridge Mountains. A large portion of the western section of the county is in the George Washington National Forest. This rural setting with a population of around 15,000 has much to offer including award winning taprooms, outdoor recreation, fresh farm and orchard produce, local artistry and a rich history.

The Extension Agent provides current research-based information to citizens by employing various delivery methods targeted to diverse audiences; works closely with producers, agri-business, community leaders, Extension Leadership Councils and appropriate agents and specialists to identify and prioritize issues, problems and opportunities; uses farm and business visits as a means to remain knowledgeable of specific local needs and problems related to agricultural production, marketing, and environmental protection; fosters communication among agricultural producers, marketers, processors and consumers; maintains a high level of proficiency in subject matter field by participating in in-service training and professional activities; works closely with citizens and local, state, and federal officials to aid Virginia in preparing and responding to natural or other emergencies and disasters. Extension agents demonstrate flexibility, adaptability; a team-oriented mindset, yet are able to work independently, and have a strong desire to help clients succeed. The person in this position is expected to travel to provide in-person leadership and to build community partnerships with few exceptions for telework.

Specialty areas specific to Nelson County agricultural producers point to a need for the successful candidate to have some knowledge base or willingness to learn in the areas of horticulture, viticulture, fruit trees, and pesticide safety. A demonstrated willingness and ability to be an agricultural generalist will be critical to success. Additionally, leadership and facilitation skills are desirable in order to provide support and guidance to a strong Extension Master Gardener program. A category 10 pesticide safety certification must be completed soon after hire.

Extension agents recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion in the development and delivery of Extension programs, actively working to diversify program participation and are responsible for VCE's civil rights policies and compliance with affirmative action.

Individuals will be hired at the Associate Extension Agent title level. A master's degree and promotion to Extension Agent are required no later than the sixth year of employment.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.

Virginia Tech has an excellent benefits package; including graduate tuition waiver.

### **Required Qualifications**

Agent faculty positions require a minimum of a bachelor's degree (BA or BS) in a relevant discipline from an accredited college or university. A master's degree and promotion to Extension Agent are required no later than the sixth year of employment. Demonstrated ability to recruit, select, train and manage volunteers; demonstrated ability to lead groups, plan, implement, facilitate, teach, and evaluate educational information programs; knowledge and use of computer technology in educational programming and management and presentation skills; excellent communication skills and the ability to work effectively with low income, limited resource and minority audiences; ability to work with minimal supervision in an unstructured setting. Extension agents demonstrate flexibility, adaptability; a team-oriented mindset, yet are able to work independently, and; strong desire to help clients succeed. The person in this position is expected to travel to provide in-person leadership and to build community partnerships with few exceptions for telework.

Virginia Tech is unable to sponsor applicants for work visas for this vacancy.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

A master's degree is preferred.

### **Appointment Type**

Regular

### **Salary Information**

\$45,000 - \$65,000

### **Review Date**

July 12, 2024

### **Additional Information**

The successful candidate will be required to have a criminal conviction check.

The successful candidate will be required to have a driver's license check with an acceptable and safe driving record.

## About Virginia Tech

Dedicated to its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech pushes the boundaries of knowledge by taking a hands-on, transdisciplinary approach to preparing scholars to be leaders and problem-solvers. A comprehensive land-grant institution that enhances the quality of life in Virginia and throughout the world, Virginia Tech is an **inclusive community** dedicated to knowledge, discovery, and creativity. The university offers more than 280 majors to a diverse enrollment of more than 36,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in eight **undergraduate colleges**, a **school of medicine**, a **veterinary medicine** college, **Graduate School**, and **Honors College**. The university has a significant presence across Virginia, including the **Innovation Campus** in Northern Virginia; the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke; sites in Newport News and Richmond; and numerous **Extension offices** and **research centers**. A leading global research institution, Virginia Tech conducts more than \$500 million in research annually.

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or military status, or otherwise discriminate against employees or applicants who inquire about, discuss, or disclose their compensation or the compensation of other employees or applicants, or on any other basis protected by law.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact John Thompson at [jthomp75@vt.edu](mailto:jthomp75@vt.edu) during regular business hours at least 10 business days prior to the event.