

The University of Arizona
Position Description
Assistant in Extension, Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP)

Position # 54951

Background

Pesticide Education programs at the University of Arizona are organized within the Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC). The APMC maintains focused efforts in Community IPM, Agricultural IPM, IPM Assessment, Pest Detection and Diagnostics, and Pesticide Education. We deploy dynamic Assistants in Extension in these areas to assist in applied research and to help develop and deliver educational programs to clientele.

Arizona is a large state with diverse high-value agriculture, a large golf industry, parks and natural areas, metropolitan areas served by a professional pest control industry, and large tracks of state, federal and tribal lands that include rangeland areas with ongoing needs for noxious and invasive weed management. State Lead Agencies (SLA), the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA, agricultural pesticide use) and Office of Pest Management (OPM, structural pest control) manage certification and licensing programs for pesticide applicators and other industry professionals. Our Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) helps support certification, licensing and continuing education for private and commercial agricultural applicators, aerial applicators, licensed agricultural pest control advisors and licensed pest management professionals for structural and non-agricultural settings in Arizona. **We have obtained funding for a 3-year project to engage key stakeholders to help us modernize our funding model for PSEP. This team will develop a business plan for deploying ongoing, sustainable pesticide safety education to address the needs of diverse stakeholders statewide.**

Purpose of Position

The Assistant in Extension for Pesticide Education will provide leadership and coordination to an important 3-year project to develop and implement a work plan for creating a sustainable statewide Pesticide Safety Education Program. The primary function of this position will be to work productively and collaboratively with leaders in the agricultural and commercial pest management industries, SLAs, other stakeholders (i.e., stably funded) and Cooperative Extension administration and faculty to develop solutions for a sustainable PSEP in Arizona. This includes establishing, convening, and guiding a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), including participation of diverse influential industry leaders. In addition, the successful candidate will work with the state Pesticide Coordinator (Ellsworth), IPM Assessment Leadership Team (Fournier, Chair), other Extension faculty, partners at ADA and OPM and other stakeholders to plan, coordinate, manage, implement, and evaluate Pesticide Safety Education Programs throughout the state. Specific activities may include planning and coordinating training events, developing Extension publications and other outputs, teaching, and working with clientele and other stakeholder groups to identify program priorities and evaluate program impacts. Target clientele include private and commercial agricultural

applicators, agricultural pest control advisors, rangeland weed managers, tribal members, licensed pest management professionals for structural pest control, turf and landscape managers, public housing management teams, school personnel and others.

A successful candidate is someone who enjoys interacting with diverse and influential stakeholders and can guide the process of developing a shared vision for the future of Arizona Pesticide Safety Education Programs. This person enjoys teamwork and will serve as a catalyst to maximize productivity and success of this program. Must have outstanding organizational skills, an ability to motivate others, skills in written and oral communication, teaching, networking, and an ability to prioritize, plan and manage multiple tasks and projects.

Position Status

This full-time (12 month, 100% Extension) position is a year-to-year academic professional appointment in CALS stationed at the Maricopa Agricultural Center in Maricopa, AZ. This position depends, in part, on competitive grant funds. The Assistant in Extension will be directed by the IPM Assessment Leadership Team (a 6-member team of the APMC) and directly supervised by Dr. Peter Ellsworth, state Pesticide Coordinator. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Position Responsibilities

- Establish and convene a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), including State Pesticide Coordinator (Ellsworth) & IPM Program Manager (Fournier), representatives from UA Cooperative Extension administration, State Lead Agencies (SLA) Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA, agricultural pesticide use) and Office of Pest Management (OPM, structural pest control), commodity groups, agro-chemical industry and other influential stakeholders throughout the state representing pesticide safety interests for agriculture and non-agricultural settings.
- Work with the SAC to:
 - Develop a business plan for achieving sustainable ongoing funding to support pesticide safety education for applicators (primarily), related license holders (e.g., Pest Control Advisors) and other key target audiences statewide.
 - Identify new or enhanced funding streams to support PSEP.
 - Improve dialog and engagement among key stakeholder organizations and individuals to enhance collaboration and achievement of program goals.
 - Begin implementation of tasks and goals identified by the SAC to move toward a more sustainable and robust PSEP for Arizona.
- Work with the state Pesticide Coordinator (Ellsworth), IPM Assessment Leadership Team, other Extension faculty, and partners at ADA and OPM to:
 - Evaluate current training practices and approaches and identify Pesticide Education needs to inform PSEP planning.
 - Identify and develop resources, training materials, and approaches to support effective pesticide safety education.
 - Coordinate training events, including Extension meetings, workshops, field days and online webinars to deliver pesticide safety education.

- Deliver pesticide safety education to end users including formal presentations, hands-on demonstrations.
 - Evaluate effectiveness of PSEP training efforts.
- Provide and support ongoing effective communication between Extension faculty, regulatory contacts and all stakeholders with an interest in pesticide education in Arizona.
- Work with the IPM Assessment Leadership Team to identify and prioritize work tasks and duties.
- Engage the APMC and relevant teams of faculty and staff in addressing Pesticide Education priorities in Arizona.
- Prepare and present Extension presentations to colleagues and clients by using electronic and traditional print materials.
- Develop and provide data on PSEP training outputs and impacts to support grant reports and other needs.
- Stimulate, lead, and participate in new and existing efforts to secure competitive funds including grant writing, budgeting and reporting.
- Creatively apply own knowledge, skills, and experience in pesticide safety to solve problems and deliver solutions for end users.
- Utilize all communication techniques such as mass media, internet, etc. to disseminate relevant outreach education to clientele.
- Represent University of Arizona IPM interests at state, regional, and national venues as appropriate.

Position Qualifications

Required: Minimum of Bachelor's degree in pest management related discipline such as Ag Education, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science, Pest Management, Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Toxicology or related field plus 2 years experience with Extension programming or similar programs. Ability to work productively and collaboratively with leaders in the agricultural and commercial pest management industries to develop solutions for a sustainable PSEP in Arizona. Skills in communication, coordination, planning, delegating, writing, networking, documenting meetings and progress toward achieving goals. Ability to keep others on task and move projects forward. Ability to teach and communicate in a manner appropriate for comprehension and use by a wide variety of diverse audiences; write for clear comprehension by both program clients, industry collaborators and academicians; and collaborate productively with peers and professionals both within and outside the University system. Ability to work independently and on teams, to interact effectively and directly with influential stakeholders, and to travel throughout the state and region. Ability to proactively participate in efforts to secure grant funding, and to respond to changes in the competitive climate of grant funding. Possession of a valid driver's license upon employment. Proficiency in use of computers and related technology, including but not limited to word processing, Powerpoint, Excel, desktop publishing software.

Preferred: Master's degree in pest management related discipline such as Ag Education, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science, Pest Management, Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Toxicology or related field and 2 or more years of

experience with Extension programming or similar programs. Broad interests in pesticide safety education and work with Cooperative Extension, with skills, knowledge and education, and/or experience in teamwork, written and oral communication, problem-solving research, program / project management, grantsmanship, stakeholder interaction, program assessment and leadership.

Application Procedure

Apply on-line at: www.uacareertrack.com. Also, email resume / c.v. along with a letter of interest and writing sample to the search committee chair: Dr. Peter Ellsworth, peterell@cals.arizona.edu.

Open Date: April 16, 2014

Initial Reviews: May 19, 2013

Close Date: Position open until filled.

Potential Start Date: As negotiated with the selected candidate.

As an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer, the University of Arizona recognizes the power of a diverse community and encourages applications from individuals with varied experiences and backgrounds. The University of Arizona is an EEO/AA - M/W/D/V Employer.

For more information contact:

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