Jr. Specialist for Rice Pest Management
(Research Specialist Series)
Butte & Sutter-Yuba Counties
75% Variable

Location Headquarters: UCCE Butte County, Oroville, CA

Position Overview

Purpose:
The Junior Specialist for rice pest management will support academics working on pest management issues in California rice by providing greenhouse, laboratory, and field support in research and outreach projects related to rice weeds, arthropods, and diseases. Work duties include establishing and maintaining research field plots, establishing and maintaining greenhouse research, conducting laboratory assessments of seed germination and viability testing, data gathering in the field and greenhouse, collecting field samples, applying pesticides and other agrochemicals, data gathering, summary, and analysis, irrigation management, and weed and pest identification.

The Junior Specialist must have skills to be able to identify the major rice weeds, including weedy rice, arthropods and diseases of rice, should be familiar with the rice production area of the Sacramento Valley, understand rice production systems, and should be able to communicate effectively with clientele and other academics via phone, email, and in person.

The Junior Specialist should be able to work independently, supervise students, interns or other employees, and maintain clear and organized records of all field work and samples collected.

The clientele served by this position is the California rice industry, specifically rice growers, managers, and Pest Control Advisors.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- Establish weed specimens from seed samples in the greenhouse.
- Work in the laboratory on germination and viability testing on weed seeds and weedy rice seeds.
- Assist in greenhouse herbicide screenings to test for herbicide resistance and susceptibility.
- Evaluate weed specimens survival and mortality and compile and summarize data resulting from greenhouse screening tests.
- Collect arthropod samples and timely process them in the laboratory.
- Rate disease incidence and severity in research plots.
- Establish research plots in the field and ensure successful establishment of rice and rice weeds.
- Lead other field employees in the establishment of field plots and application of treatments in these plots.
- Assist with field herbicide, insecticide, and fertilizer treatments.
- Gather, summarize, and analyze herbicide efficacy data.
- Evaluate rice phytotoxicity.
- Identify and collect suspected weedy rice samples from clientele.
- Communicate relevant information about weedy rice to clientele during field interactions.

**Reporting Relationship:** The Jr. Specialist serves under the administrative guidance of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) County Director for Butte County with input from the UCCE County Director for Sutter-Yuba Counties.

**Qualifications and Skills Required**

**Required Qualifications**

- A Bachelor’s degree or other advanced degrees in disciplines such as Agriculture, Plant/Crop Science, Entomology, Weed Science, Horticulture or related disciplines, or a closely related field is required by the appointment date.
- Familiarity with the Sacramento Valley and rice production systems.
- Capacity to calibrate farm equipment.

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Field experience establishing crops, applied research, and extension.
- Conduct work under high temperature conditions in the field and greenhouse.

**Additional Qualifications**

- Live within a commutable distance of the position headquarters during period of appointment.

**Skills Required:** To be successful, Jr. Specialists require skills in the following:

**Professional Competence and Activity**

- The Junior Specialist will participate in outreach activities, helping academics organize and conduct clientele meetings and field days, prepare extension publications, contribute to blogs, newsletters and other forms of outreach.

**Communication**

- Demonstrated excellence in written, oral, interpersonal and public speaking communication skills.
- Skills to communicate and extend technical information to diverse audiences are required.

**Collaboration, Teamwork and Flexibility**

- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a team member with others.
- Able to adapt as circumstances warranted. Promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

**Lifelong Learning**

- Demonstrated commitment to ongoing self-improvement - both professionally and as a person.

**About UC ANR**

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) consists of a network of scientists and educators working in partnership across the California. We are committed to developing and supporting healthy food systems, healthy environments, healthy communities, and healthy Californians. UC ANR administers UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), which is responsible for program development and delivery in the counties throughout the state of California.
Learn more about
- UC ANR at https://UCANR.edu
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- Our Strategic Initiatives http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/
- Our Public Value statements at https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/2016-2020_Strategic_Plan/Goal_5_Prioritize_programs_and_services/Public_values_statement/
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Further to the above academics are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion https://ucanr.edu/sites/Professional_Development/Office_ Team_Management/Diversity_Equity_Inclusion_Belonging/
- Affirmative Action: Further to the above, all UC ANR academics are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR’s commitment to affirmative action. Learn more of UC ANR Affirmative Action policy: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/

Salary & Benefits

**SALARY:** The salary will be in the Jr. Specialist Rank, Step 1 ($22.42/hour). For information regarding the Jr. Specialist series salary scales, please refer to: https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/2022/july-2021-scales/t24-b-n.pdf
This is a represented position.

The Jr. Specialist position is a one year limited term appointment at 75% time (variable up to 100%). The performance in the position will be evaluated prior to the appointment end date. At that time, the position may be extended based on performance, continued need for the appointment and availability of funding.

**Benefits:** The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including two days per month paid vacation, one day per month paid sick leave, and approximately thirteen paid holidays per year. ANR is part of UC’s Family-Friendly Policies. For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at: https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/index.html

How to Apply

If interested in this position, please visit: https://recruit.ucanr.edu/ and choose “applicants” (refer to position #21-22)

**Closing Date:** To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by 11/8/2021; open until filled.

Questions?

Contact Alma Jackson - ajackson@ucanr.edu

Please note that successful applicants are responsible for ensuring their eligibility to work in the United States (i.e. citizen or national of the United States, a lawful permanent resident, a foreign national authorized to work in the United States without need of employer sponsorship) for the duration of the appointment period.
Please note the UC Policy on COVID vaccination and working for UC: For the safety and well-being of the entire university community, the policy will require, with few exceptions, that all students, faculty, and staff be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus before they will be allowed on campus or in a facility or office. Please visit https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/07/ucs-covid-19-vaccine-policy.html for more information.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.

As of January 1, 2014, ANR is a smoke- and tobacco-free environment in which smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes), is strictly prohibited.