

Assistant Specialist

Fresno County and Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center (KARE)

Location Headquarters: Fresno and Parlier, CA

Position Overview

Purpose:

The Assistant Specialist for Fresno County will work under the supervision of the Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor to coordinate research and extension activities related to nutrient management, irrigation, soil health, and organic production of Southeast Asian and other specialty crops as part of the small farms extension program in Fresno County. This position will focus on two grant-funded research projects: 1) research on fertilizer and irrigation practices for moringa in the San Joaquin Valley; and 2) research on nitrogen uptake in moringa, lemongrass, and bok choy.

The position will provide extension support to small-scale farmers with regulatory compliance and incentives programs related to irrigation and nutrient management and any assistance programs available for small farms during COVID-19. Research duties will focus on field trials at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center (KARE) and on collaborating farms and will include project design, data collection, use of specialized equipment, travel to farms, data analysis, and preparation of grant reports. Extension and outreach duties will include development of educational materials, participation in policy communications, presentations at

extension meetings, and providing one-on-one assistance to farmers with other members of the small farms team. The Assistant Specialist will work closely with the Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor, the Hmong Agricultural Assistant, and small farms extension staff in Fresno County.

Reporting

Relationship: The Assistant Specialist is administratively responsible to the Small Farms Advisor at UCCE Fresno.



Qualifications and Skills Required

Required Qualifications

- A minimum of an earned master's degree in the agricultural sciences such as soil science, plant science, agronomy, or a related field;
- Academic coursework in soil science, nutrient management, irrigation, and/or soil conservation practices;
- Strong quantitative skills, experience in statistical analysis of data, and familiarity with field-based methods of data collection in agricultural research;
- Prior experience in applied research and extension;
- Excellent time management skills and the ability to manage multiple project tasks;
- Ability to build partnerships working with multidisciplinary teams;
- A valid California driver's license.

Desired Qualifications:

- Background or experience working with San Joaquin Valley specialty vegetable or subtropical production systems and/or small-scale farmers in rural areas;
- Fluency in Hmong, Lao, Thai, Cambodian, Punjabi, or Spanish.

Skills Required: To be successful, Assistant Specialists require skills in the following:

Technical Competence and Impact

- Research Specialists are expected to use their professional expertise to make scientific and scholarly contributions to the research enterprise of the University and to achieve recognition in the professional and scientific community. This will include presenting results of research at professional meetings and publishing manuscripts of research results in peer-reviewed journals.

Communication

- Demonstrated excellence in written, oral, interpersonal and public speaking communication skills.
- Skills to communicate and extend technical information to diverse audiences are required.
- Participation in professional societies and conferences and ability to give presentations at seminars and continuing education functions.

Collaboration, Teamwork and Flexibility

- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a team member with others.
- The ability to build partnerships and to work with multidisciplinary teams.
- 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>
- UCCE Fresno at <http://cefresno.ucanr.edu>
- 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/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/2016-2020%20Strategic%20Plan/Goal%205%20Prioritize%20programs%20and%20services/Public%20values%20statement/)
- 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/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative%20Action/)

Salary & Benefits

SALARY: The salary will be in the Assistant Specialist Rank, Step 1. For information regarding the Assistant Specialist series salary scales, please refer to: <https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/files/2021/2020-21-academic-salary-program/t24-b.pdf>

This is a represented position.

The Assistant Specialist position is a non-career track position. The position is a one-year renewable term appointment with a merit cycle every two years. The performance in the position will be evaluated annually. The position will be extended based on performance 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: <http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

How to Apply

If interested in this position, please visit: <https://recruit.ucanr.edu/> and choose "applicants" (refer to position #21-02)

Closing Date: To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by **March 25, 2021**.

Questions?

Contact Tatiana Avoce; email: tavoce@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.

University of California Cooperative Extension

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, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

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.