

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Applied Forage Systems Specialist (70% extension and 30% research), Non-Tenure Track

Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is searching for an Applied Forage Systems Specialist. The position will be located at the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SPAREC). This is a calendar year, non-tenure track Administrative and Professional (AP) faculty position with a 70% extension and 30% research appointment. The Applied Forage Systems Specialist will develop a nationally recognized, highly visible, integrated extension and research program that focuses on practices and strategies to improve the economic competitiveness, viability, and stability of forage and forage-based livestock production. The individual will work in an interdisciplinary environment which includes collaboration with faculty, extension agents, and producers to conduct extension programs as well as develop and incorporate research and demonstration projects to support these efforts. The individual will also be expected to develop a focused and cohesive research and Extension program that addresses the needs of forage producers in Virginia and the region and supports the publication of peer-reviewed extension materials, popular press articles, refereed scientific articles, and social media. Areas of interest may include, but are not limited to: forage establishment and fertilization, grazing management, stored forage production (hay, baleage, silage, etc.), soil-plant interactions, pest management, alternative forage crops, remote sensing technologies, and watershed management. In addition to the Southern Piedmont AREC, land and facilities for collaboration exist on campus (Blacksburg) and at the Virginia ARECs in Shenandoah Valley (Raphine) and Southwest Virginia (Glade Springs).

Required Qualifications:

- A master's degree in agronomy, soil science, plant science, animal science, or related discipline with a major emphasis in forage crop production and management is required.
- Must have a strong background in or knowledge of the Southeastern US, with an understanding of forage agronomy, pasture-based livestock systems, and the region's production systems.
- Ability to effectively communicate with industry and producer stakeholders is essential; therefore, strong communication and interpersonal skills are required.
- Demonstrable success in publishing research results is required.
- Demonstrable ability to develop strong and focused integrated Extension and research programs.
- Must possess or obtain commercial (VDACS category 10) pesticide applicators license within 12 months of employment.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrable success in securing extramural funding.
- Candidates with a PhD are encouraged to apply.

Responsibilities:**Extension (Primary appointment)**

Facilitate and conduct on-farm forage production research, organize grazing schools and pasture walks, and other activities directed at improving forage systems. Develop and deliver effective educational programs to support county-based Extension agents and producers. Publish peer-reviewed extension materials, popular press articles, refereed scientific articles, and social media materials.

Research (Secondary appointment)

Develop a highly visible, integrated research and extension program that focuses on practices and strategies to improve the economic competitiveness, viability, and stability of forage and forage-based livestock production while enhancing the mechanistic understanding of how ecological, hydroedaphic, and climatic factors interact with grazing management. Secure extramural funding, publish in peer-reviewed journals, and participate on graduate student committees.

Salary: The position is a full-time appointment with salary commensurate with education and experience. Virginia Tech offers a comprehensive benefits package.

For a full description of the position and requirements, and to apply, please go to www.jobs.vt.edu , posting AP0180355. Attach a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copy of transcript, statement of extension philosophy and research interests, and a list of three references to the online faculty application. Review of applications will begin on December 5, 2018 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. The position will start in May 2019; however, an earlier starting date is negotiable. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process or needing this material in an alternate format should notify Dr. Carol Wilkinson at 434-818-5535 or wilki@vt.edu by the review date.

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For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, contact the executive director for Equity and Access at 540-231-2010 or Virginia Tech, North End Center, Suite 2300 (0318), 300 Turner St. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061.