

Position # : 0001-4007

Requisition #: 0803278

**Title: Regional Specialized Dairy (4-H/Youth) Extension Agent,
Rank I, II, III or IV**

Location: Polk County (Bartow), Florida

Position open to: November 12, 2009

General information: This is a 12-month, permanent status-accruing, 100% state-paid, 100% extension (Florida Cooperative Extensive Service) position. It is available in collaboration with the Department of Animal Sciences, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. Duties will include providing leadership to dairy youth extension activities and participating in other dairy extension programs, such as assisting with the college dairy judging team. As appropriate, the incumbent of this position will seek contract and grant funding actively to support his/her program.

Major Responsibilities:

- Youth will:
 - Develop leadership including decision-making skills, citizenship, sense of responsibility, self-confidence and dependability attributes.
 - Become familiar with scientific, research-based principles and methods required for successful agricultural enterprises.
 - Learn about career options in agriculture and specifically, the dairy industry.
- Volunteers will:
 - Acquire science and technology information and skills that will help youth develop useful competencies and attributes in dairy science.
- Audience:
 - Youth enrolled in dairy projects.
 - Youth enrolled in grades 3 through 8 studying agriculture and its contribution to society.
 - Volunteers working with youth in science and technology with an interest in animal sciences, veterinary medicine, dairy husbandry, etc.
- Primary educational objectives and outcomes/impacts:
 - Youth knowledge gain, behavior change, and life skill development in dairy science and related areas such as agricultural economics, animal husbandry, market systems, reproductive physiology, nutrition, and agronomy.
 - Youth awareness and knowledge gain in agricultural literacy, value of agriculture to the economy, and basic scientific skill development.
- Methods/Activities:
 - Volunteer training in dairy science and general science principles through individual project study and group experiences. Adult coaching/mentoring of youth will focus on the subject-matter of animal and dairy science, experiential learning processes, development of decision-making, analytical, communication, and confidence building skills. Additional focus will be on

developing positive relationship and fostering positive youth development principles.

- Youth participation in individual animal and herd project study, including documentation through reading, self study, financial and production record keeping, and documentation in record books.
- Youth training and skill development via judging teams, clinics, day camps, field visits, workshops, quiz bowl experiences, and competitive activities (many conducted at state, regional, and national levels due to historical and geographic scope of the dairy industry).
- Classroom and field experiences for instructors and youth in grades 4 through 8 with age appropriate, experiential engagement in agricultural awareness and acquaintance with scientific principles utilized in agriculture.

Administrative Relationships: The position is located within the South Central Extension District, hence supervisory oversight will be through the Polk County Extension Director and the South Central District Extension director, who will be responsible for annual program review and evaluation. Since the agent will also work closely with the Chair of the Animal Sciences Dept., this individual will provide input to the evaluation process.

Qualifications: The Regional Specialized Agent candidate must hold the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited University with emphasis on Dairy programming, with a degree that focuses on Dairy Management, Youth Development, or closely related fields. A Master's degree is preferred. A candidate hired with a Bachelor's degree would be expected to achieve significant progress towards the Master's degree within 5 years of employment.
- Demonstrated ability to design, promote, implement, and evaluate educational programs based on the experiential learning principles.
- Experience in youth programming and an understanding of youth development principles that include evidence of strong support for cultural diversity and inclusion in 4-H and FFA Youth Development educational programs.
- Possess a strong ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals, groups, and through mass media.
- Grantsmanship experience.
- Ability to pass a mandatory national background check.

Application Instructions:

Apply through the online UF GatorJobs application system (at <https://jobs.ufl.edu>), referencing requisition # 0803278. Although an Extension Agent is classified as a Faculty position, a "TEAMS, OPS ...Cooperative Extension application" is required.

Please attach your Resume or CV, and a cover letter that describes how your experience and qualifications have prepared you for this position.

TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

You must submit unofficial copies of all transcripts and/or coursework of your professional degrees. You may attach these as an "other" document, or you may submit to our office as directed below. An unofficial copy is acceptable for the application process, but before you can be hired, IFAS Human Resources must have the official transcript for your highest degree on file. Official transcripts must be issued directly to our office.

Also, all applicants must have at least three reference rating forms on file. Reference forms must be less than one year old. If you have not already done so, please contact your references and ask that they complete a reference rating form on your behalf. The form is located at http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/ref_form.pdf.

With the exception of official transcripts, all items submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the next business day of the position closing date. All documents submitted by fax or email must be received no later than the next business day.

Requested forms and transcripts should be submitted as follows:

Faxed to the IFAS Office of Human Resources, Faculty Recruitment and Hiring,
Attention Dana LeCuyer at 352-392-3226

OR

Emailed to dlecuyer@ufl.edu

OR

Mailed to:

Dana LeCuyer
UF IFAS Human Resources
Faculty Recruitment and Hiring
P O Box 110281
Gainesville, FL 32611-0281

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Background Information: The University of Florida is the state's Land Grant and Sea Grant institution, with a student population of 47,000, and is a member of the prestigious American Association of Universities. The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program supports University of Florida-IFAS Extension outreach efforts to youth ages 5-18 in 66 Florida counties plus the Seminole Tribe.