DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The University of Florida/IFAS and Seminole County seek to fill a 12 month, permanent status-accruing sustainable agriculture and community food systems extension agent. The successful candidate will plan, organize, develop, implement, teach, evaluate, and report on science-based extension educational programs.

The agent in this position will provide education to local agricultural producers and associated businesses that will facilitate economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable improvements in agricultural management practices. Target audiences include hydroponic crop, ornamental nursery, vegetable crop, turfgrass and alternative crop producers. Programs will emphasize sustainable crop management and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

Specifically, the agent will:

- Develop an advisory committee to assist with program design, identification of client needs and priority issues, analysis of county situations, and establishment of program budgets.
- Provide leadership and delivery of educational programming related to sustainable agriculture and food systems, including production, harvesting, packaging, and marketing.
- Work with community leaders to facilitate and coordinate partnerships with local and state agencies, elected officials, communities, land owners, citizens, and industry in developing urban/rural and community economic opportunities to create local and regional food systems.
- Assist in community food initiatives, community supported agriculture, farm to consumer efforts, farmers markets, agri-tourism opportunities, and other marketing efforts.
- Establish and maintain good working relationships with UF/IFAS Extension's Florida Friendly Landscaping, 4-H Youth Development, Master Gardener, and Family and Consumer Science programs and volunteers on cooperative educational efforts designed to produce positive practice changes with significant and locally relevant impact.
- Teach latest IPM options including use of new bio-rational materials.
• Improve pesticide applicator knowledge of pesticide use and environmental impact, and provide pesticide license training, testing, and continuing education units for pesticide license renewal.

• Have a working knowledge of horticulture and experience with diagnostic skills, agricultural Best Management Practices, soils, fertilizers, pest identification, and pest management.

• Closely monitor agricultural crop market conditions at both the national and regional level to identify a product mix that fills market gaps and provides the greatest return possible for producers.

• Use traditional and innovative educational methods to teach target audiences new practices, procedures, techniques, and skills that will ultimately result in documentable positive behavioral and/or practice change with time. These methods will include the use of web-based teaching technology to enhance sustainable agriculture and local food systems.

• Seek grant, contract, or other funding and partnership opportunities to support extension programs.

• Work with UF/IFAS and Seminole County teams to identify needs, issues, and opportunities.

• Carry out other duties as outlined by the County Extension Director and the District Extension director.

Candidates will be reviewed as applications are received, but please be aware that interviews might not be scheduled until 4 to 6 weeks after the position closing date.

**BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates for this position must hold a bachelor’s degree; a Master’s or Ph.D. degree are preferred. Candidates with 5 years of extension experience or equivalent are preferred. Degrees may be in agriculture, horticulture, plant science, or a closely related field. A minor in business and marketing is preferred. Candidates must be a proactive leader with a track record of successfully producing project deliverables. Candidates must have excellent communication, teaching, and facilitation skills and must be able to create and maintain resource networks. Candidates must show demonstrated skills using the internet and various web-based tools in education programs. Candidates must have experience working with diverse audiences at all socioeconomic levels. Candidates must also have a commitment to UF/IFAS and Seminole County core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability. The selected candidate must possess or be able to obtain a Florida driver's license, and must possess a Florida Restricted Use Pesticide License or be able to obtain one within the first 6 months of employment. Must be flexible and willing to work irregular hours, including evenings, weekends and overnight travel.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION** Seminole County has a total area of 345 square miles of which 309 square miles is land and 36 square miles is water. Seminole is Florida's third smallest county by land area, with rapid urban development. Farm diversity has expanded and is positioned to grow. Agriculture remains a viable industry given the community’s effort to
maintain a working rural area coupled with a strong business development ecosystem. The need for sustainable community food systems is increasing and so is the need for additional training in entrepreneurship to help diversify agriculture’s footprint in the local economy. The county is in close proximity to the Medical City complex in Orlando and the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center. The area’s growing population has opened up the potential for expanding market channels that flow directly from the farm gate to end user (e.g., restaurants, farmers markets, independent grocers). Many farm operations have an increased need for diverse crops but they lack the skills to promote new products or to analyze the types of products to produce.

**Application Instructions**

Apply through the online UF application system at [http://jobs.ufl.edu/postings/65419](http://jobs.ufl.edu/postings/65419), and attach your Resume or CV, as well as 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 academic 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.

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 professional/academic 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](http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/ref_form.pdf).

Please also complete and submit the Previous Employment Form (located at [http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/prev_employment.pdf](http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/prev_employment.pdf)).

With the exception of official transcripts, all items submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the next business day after the position closing date. All documents submitted by fax or email must be received no later than the next business day. If your official transcripts will arrive after the closing date, you must also submit unofficial transcripts by the deadline.

Requested reference forms and transcripts should be submitted to:

Ms. Dana LeCuyer  
UF IFAS Human Resources  
Faculty Recruitment and Hiring  
P O Box 110281  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0281  
dlecuyer@ufl.edu
Fax: (352) 392-3226

Final candidate will be required to provide official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at [http://www.naces.org/](http://www.naces.org/).

*The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida’s ‘Government in the Sunshine’ and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.*