Classification Title: Regional Specialized Extension Agent II, III, or IV – Agriculture (Dairy)

Application deadline: 2 April 2018

Job Description:
The Florida Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments that provides quality, relevant education and research-based expertise to foster healthy people, a healthy environment, and a healthy economy. We are the resource that helps educate Floridians to address issues related to agriculture, natural resources, youth development, families and communities.

University of Florida/IFAS Extension seeks to fill a 12-month, permanent status-accruing Agriculture (Dairy) Regional Specialized Agent (RSA) position. The regional focus of the position will encompass the dairy-producing counties of Lafayette, Gilchrist, and Suwannee plus the other counties of the Northeast Extension District that have dairies. The position will be based at the UF/IFAS Extension Office in Mayo, Lafayette County.

As the RSA, you will plan, develop, implement, teach, evaluate, and report on educational programs beneficial to dairy producers. You will contribute to statewide dairy education programs by collaborating with North Florida Beef-Forage Program (NFLAG) county faculty, state specialists (animal science, forage, soil, and water) at various UF facilities, and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

You will maintain an effective advisory committee to guide your extension program and you will establish a system for accountability and public information to all relevant individuals, groups, organizations and agencies. Educational topics may include manure and wastewater management, animal nutrition, winter forages and supplements, native and improved pasture management, weed identification and control, soil, forage, manure and process generated wastewater samples analysis for nutrient management, herd health, and reproduction management.

You can expect to spend ample time on farm visits, facilitating regularly scheduled dairy producer peer discussion meetings to hear and understand client needs. You will educate clientele about regulatory issues, particularly water quality improvement plans for impaired watersheds that have significant impacts on nutrient management practices dairies use to produce animal feed. You will work with state agencies involved with water resource protection to help producers interpret rules and with water resource experts to help provide solutions.
As a regional extension agent, you will have expectations beyond those of a county extension agent. For example, you will:

- Support, train, and mentor county extension agents in dairy education.
- Provide regional educational workshops and programs to achieve a balance reflective of north Florida's population diversity and to address the unique educational needs of regional stakeholders.
- Collaborate with state extension specialists and other extension colleagues to conduct practical and applied research projects, engaging social scientists when appropriate.
- Serve as project leader for extramural funding that supports and enhances the extension program.
- Work with the Southeast District Dairy RSA and the 4-H Youth Dairy State Specialized Agent in a functional, complementary, and effective cohort.

**Minimum requirements:**

The successful candidate will have a master’s degree from an accredited college or university in animal science, agronomy, or forage production plus 3 or more years of extension experience or equivalent. A flexible schedule that allows for irregular hours is necessary. The candidate must be able to obtain a Florida driver’s license. A background check will be required prior to employment.

**Preferred qualifications:**

If the master’s degree is in animal science, a dairy specialization is preferred. An environmental science background is preferred. The successful applicant should have experience working in the agricultural industry. Experience working in multicultural settings and coursework/training on multicultural topics are also desirable. Expertise in getting groups to work together for a higher goal, managing competing priorities, and adaptability to handle unexpected situations is a plus for this role. You must be an effective written and verbal communicator, feel comfortable presenting in front of small and large crowds, and be able to establish solid partnerships.

**Further information:**

The North Florida dairy production area is very diverse in production practices such as tunnel ventilated free-stall barns and vibrant pasture based systems, has many third generation farmers in their young adult years farming with parents and grandparents, and is likely to continue growing in production.

More milk is produced on fewer farms each year, and that milk is handled by fewer people. Dairy farmers have to find new and innovative ways to increase outputs while decreasing inputs. Outputs per cow and total milk production have moved upward, driven by genetic, technological, and production management improvements. The dairy industry is continuously looking for new and emerging ways to make dairy farming more profitable while maintaining environmental sustainability.
Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. As such, all partners are involved in the supervision of the office and contribute to the salary and support resources. The primary goal of Extension is to disseminate the latest knowledge and applicable technologies in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences in order to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. The UF/IFAS mission is accomplished through extension faculty members, scientists, educators, administrative staff, and volunteers working cohesively throughout Florida’s 67 counties.

Application Instructions
Apply through the online UF application system at http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/506781, 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. Applications must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. (Eastern) of the posting end date.

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.

Please also complete and submit the Previous Employment Form (located at 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
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/.

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.