Position # 0001-3982  
Livestock Agent II, III or IV  
or Livestock Agent and County Extension Director  
Highlands County (South District)  
Sebring, Florida  

Application Deadline: 01/31/2007* or until position is filled  
Date available: 03/02/2007

This is an announcement for one full-time position. Candidates may apply for this as only a Livestock Agent position or if qualified may apply for it as a Livestock Agent/County Extension Director (CED) position.

The livestock position is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, teaching and evaluating an important livestock and forage production educational program. The successful candidate will work with other county Extension faculty in the South Florida Beef-Forage Program (http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/), animal science specialists at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center (http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/), and animal science specialists and forage specialists on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville in planning and developing Extension education programs of mutual interests. There are over 72,000 head of beef cows and over 121,000 total cows and calves grazing annually on over 425,000 acres in Highlands County. This recently resulted in over $31 million in annual gross sales for the more than 300 beef cattle producers in Highlands County. Cattle operations in Highlands County range in size from under 10 head to several thousand annually. The average herd size is about 250. While some cattle ranches are corporately owned and managed, most of the cattle ranches in Highlands County are family owned and operated through several generations.

A qualified, self-starting, energetic, team-oriented individual is desired as the County Extension Director portion of this position, FL. The successful Director candidate must have excellent interpersonal, management, budgeting and administrative skills. The CED will be responsible for management, supervision, coordination and leadership of the total Extension program and staff. This includes maintaining effective working relationships with Extension Administration, county government, community leaders, private sector clientele, media, related agencies and the general public.

The CED will supervise and evaluate county faculty who program in various subject matter areas such as livestock and forage production, citrus, residential and commercial horticulture, and 4-H. The Extension Office also houses the Master Gardener Program. Florida Master Gardeners are University of Florida-trained volunteer teachers. They educate and provide research-based information about gardening, lawns, trees, and fruit trees.

The livestock portion of this position requires a Bachelor’s degree with strong academic background in animal science, agronomy and forage production (A Master’s degree is preferred). CED applicants must have a Master’s degree and a minimum of three (3) years of Extension experience or equivalent. A background check and drug test will be required prior to employment. Experience working in multicultural settings and coursework/training on multicultural topics are also desirable.
Extension programming in Highlands County is a cooperative undertaking between the County and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. As such both partners are involved in the supervision of the office and contribute to the salary and support resources.

Highlands County (http://www.hcbcc.net/index.html) with a population of over 95,000 is located in Central Florida about 60 miles south of Lakeland and Interstate 4. The Extension office is located in the Agri-Civic Center on the south side of the city of Sebring, which is in the northwestern part of the County.