

AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled maintenance and repair work related to the operation of a diversified farm; cares for and feeds farm animals; maintains farm equipment; and performs related work as required.

LICENSE REQUIRED

Possession of a valid California driver's license. Incumbents required to obtain class A license at own expense within six (6) months of regular employment.

Possession of a pesticides certificate.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Checks, cleans, operates, makes minor repairs, and services tractors, plows, discs, trailers, dozers, trenchers, loaders, rototillers, scrapers, planters, swamp coolers, and air compressors. *E*

Plants, prunes, waters, and fertilizes nursery plants and farm crops. *E*

Mows lawns using a variety of farm equipment; weeds, cultivates crops, sprays pesticides and maintains pesticide reports. *E*

Irrigates pastures; repairs, installs, and sets up plumbing and irrigation systems. *E*

Feeds farm animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and chickens; picks up feed and hauls livestock. *E*

Performs tractor work in the maintenance of the farm operation. *E*

Performs minor construction, welding, and painting of farm buildings, roofs, rain gutters, and cement work. *E*

Makes minor repairs and replacement to electrical systems. *E*

Secures and checks buildings. *E*

Operates district vehicles, and a wide variety of farm equipment. *E*

Assists in the care and treatment of students' animal projects and genetic breeding by artificial insemination. *E*

Supervises students on campus; supervises JOB Plus students and student employees as assigned in using farm equipment, machinery, computers, and farm techniques. *E*

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (cont.)

Requisitions supplies, feed, and animals as needed. *E*

Performs related work as required

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

1. Basic farm work relating to routine maintenance of buildings, planting of farm crops, and caring for farm animals;
2. Basic knowledge of the use and care of farm equipment and buildings, crops and farm stock;
3. Appropriate safety precautions and procedures;
4. Supervision and motivational techniques;
5. Proper methods, materials, tools, and equipment used in building trades and sprinkler/irrigation systems;
6. Pesticides and their applications;
7. Computerized equipment and programs; and
8. Welding, electrical wiring, and plumbing.

Ability to:

1. Read and understand the schedule and procedures relating to the operation of a farm school and the use of equipment, supplies, and planting used in its operation;
2. Apply modern farming methods and principles to diversified farming;
3. Operate, maintain, and make minor repairs to a variety of farm equipment and buildings;
4. Perform heavy manual labor;
5. Maintain records;
6. Use hand and power tools skillfully and safely;
7. Use good judgment in exercising initiative in performance of duties and recognizing scope of authority;
8. Operate a vehicle observing legal and defensive driving practices;
9. Understand and carry out oral and written instructions;
10. Establish and maintain effective relationships with those contacted in the course of work; and
11. Perform simple and repetitive tasks.

EDUCATION

Individuals possessing the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed above are considered to possess the necessary education.

EXPERIENCE

General farming experience, including dairy operations, care of livestock, and farming and planting procedures; and experience performing general maintenance work.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Environment:

Indoor and outdoor work environment; and subject to driving a vehicle to conduct work; dust and dirt.

Physical Abilities:

Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate various farm and hand tools and equipment; standing for extended periods of time; bending at the waist; lifting heavy objects weighing up to 50 pounds; carrying, pushing or pulling items up to 100 pounds; digging; and walking over rough or uneven surfaces.

Hazards:

Pollen and fumes from fertilizer and animal excrement.