



## Regional Extension Agriculture Specialist Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania Counties

#124440

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### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Screening of complete applications will begin November 14, 2016.

#### Apply online at:

[www.wsujobs.com](http://www.wsujobs.com)

Submit a letter of application addressing each of the minimum and preferred qualifications, as well as major job duties; a current and complete curriculum vitae/resume; a concise 1-2 page statement outlining your approach to establishing an effective Extension program and applied research projects for the position as described; the names and contact information for four (4) professional references willing to serve as references and able to address your relevant qualifications; and a scanned copy of official university transcripts.

For questions about this position, contact: Doug Stienbarger at 360-397-6060 x5742 or [stiendm@wsu.edu](mailto:stiendm@wsu.edu)

For information on WSU Ext., visit: <http://ext.wsu.edu>

For information on WSU Extension in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania Counties, visit: [clark.wsu.edu](http://clark.wsu.edu), [cowlitz.wsu.edu](http://cowlitz.wsu.edu), and [skamania.wsu.edu](http://skamania.wsu.edu)

For more information on the WSU CAHNRS Tenure and Promotion process, go to: <http://goo.gl/4rMWFE>

### POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Washington State University Regional Extension Agriculture Specialist - This is a twelve-month, tenure-track, permanent position at the rank of Assistant Professor, within WSU Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Unit (insert URL) in the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS). The position is headquartered at the WSU Clark County Extension Office on the 79-acre Heritage Farm in Vancouver, Washington, and also serves Cowlitz and Skamania Counties.

This position provides leadership, curriculum development, and outreach for agriculture/horticulture programs across a multi-county region in Southwest Washington. Programmatic emphasis will focus on sustainable agricultural production, diversified farming systems, pest management, and marketing assistance to a variety of audiences, including direct market farmers and other growers, organic producers, beginning farmers, and the general public. The position also provides faculty-level leadership to the Clark County Master Gardener Programs.

The individual will conduct on-farm research to address issues and opportunities of highest priority to area farmers and in support of sustainable farming practices. The incumbent will be expected to develop a sustained program and acquire extramural funding to support and strengthen on-going programs as well as new program initiatives. This person will also facilitate and promote WSU programs and research opportunities through collaborative relationships with other WSU Extension specialists and researchers, Oregon State University Extension specialists, and area agencies. This person will work collaboratively with the County Directors of Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties.

### JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop and deliver educational and applied research programs for commercial sustainable agricultural production that provides production, farm management and marketing education, and technical assistance to crop and livestock producers, diversified direct market farmers, viticulture, hard cider, integrated crop and livestock producers, and practitioners of other production systems in the region. Issues may include crop and alternative crop production, season extension, varietal choices, community food systems, farm business management, pest management, direct marketing, value-added production, decision support systems for agriculture, water quality, urban agriculture, and niche marketing.
- Develop an applied research program utilizing the Heritage Farm and its infrastructure (high tunnel, irrigation, farm equipment, etc.) in collaboration with regional farmers.
- Develop and deliver innovative outreach programs that utilize applied research; web-based and distance learning technologies; collaborations with local agencies, farmers, non-governmental organizations, businesses; and

schools, conferences, classes, workshops, newsletters and mass media. Audiences will include large and small acreage landowners and managers, consumers, special interest groups, professional groups, and elected officials.

- Collaborate with organizations to help expand markets for locally produced agricultural products.
- Conduct program evaluations that identify improved economic and environmental benefits, as well as long-term viability of both established and new farming enterprises within the urban and rural areas of Clark County.
- Collaborate in the development and application of culturally-sensitive educational methods to reach underserved audiences, such as women farmers, immigrant farmers, minority farmers, and tribes.
- Support efforts to improve access to current and emerging markets, as well as the development of new markets for Clark County and the region.
- Develop peer-reviewed curricula and publications in print and electronic formats for target audiences, as well as scholarly articles and publications for appropriate professional journals.
- Engage in a robust grant development program and secure extramural resources to advance sustainable agricultural research and outreach across the region.
- Provide pest and plant-problem management advice for commercial producers; landscape professionals; and licensed pest applicators with a focus on reducing unnecessary and ineffective use of pesticides.
- Collaborate and partner with internal and external agricultural experts, including those based at research and extension centers; the WSU Small Farm Program; WSU Farm and Food Systems Team; organizations representing conventional and organic agricultural interests; County departments, state and federal agencies; and community agencies on priority community issues related to agriculture.
- Participate as an affiliate faculty member in an agricultural sciences department within the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.
- Supervise and provide technical support to the WSU Clark County Extension Master Gardener (MG) program and the MG Coordinator. Collaborate with the Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County and provide basic technical support to regional Master Gardener programs across the three county region.
- Participate as member of the state-wide Farm and Food Systems Team.
- Provide food production curricular support to other office programs, such as 4-H and nutrition education programs.
- Contribute to local, university, state and federal recognition of WSU Extension as an essential education and applied research resource.

#### **Line of Responsibility:**

This position is responsible to the Director of the WSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Unit.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Earned Master's degree in sustainable agriculture, organic agriculture, agronomy, horticulture, plant science, soil science, or other degree directly related to the subject matter areas of this position.
2. Relevant knowledge in agriculture and experience working with producers.

#### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. PhD preferred in sustainable agriculture or closely related disciplines as listed above.
2. Understanding of sustainable agricultural and organic production principles and practices.
3. Knowledge and understanding of small-scale farming, high tunnel production systems, and urban/periurban agriculture models.
4. Experience working directly with farmers, community-based organizations, government agency representatives, elected officials, environmentalists, consumers, and volunteers.
5. Demonstrated skill in applied research and outreach methodologies for sustainable agricultural practices.
6. Ability to lead as well as to participate in interdisciplinary and multi-agency teams.
7. Experience in grant writing and/or extramural funds development.
8. Documented record of scholarship in subject matter closely aligned with this position.
9. Experience in the development and delivery of educational programs using a variety of methodologies, including distance education and educational events.

10. Strong ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences and clientele using verbal, written, and listening skills and to relate to a variety of audiences, including elected officials, staff, volunteers, media, agency representatives, and youth.
11. Proficiency in digital and internet-based technology to support program delivery.
12. Understanding of agricultural marketing systems and trends, as well as food systems.
13. Ability to conduct needs assessments and integrate such assessments into program planning, implementation, delivery, and outcome evaluation.

#### **JOB EXPECTATIONS:**

- Understand and carry out the principles and specific requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disability Act, the Affirmative Action Plan, and all pertinent rules and regulations.
- The successful candidate will be required to work flexible hours that include some evenings and weekends as needed. There is an expectation that the candidate will need to drive to various locations around the three-county area and region. Occasional overnight travel is required.
- Extension faculty are hired into the organization, not into a specific geographical location. It is possible that future circumstances may require relocation.
- Ability to travel year-round using own reliable transportation (mileage reimbursed) is required. While using a private vehicle for official business, the successful candidate must obtain current automobile liability insurance (meeting the requirements described in RCW 46.30.020 and RCW 46.29.090) and possess a valid driver's license.
- Employees may undergo background screening as a condition of employment.

#### **SALARY:**

Salary is commensurate with the candidate's academic and professional qualifications, including history of program management and successful extramural fund development, and available funding. State of Washington benefits and enrollment in TIAA-CREF are included. For more information on benefits at WSU, go to:

<http://www.hrs.wsu.edu/benefits>.

#### **LOCATION:**

The position is in northeast Vancouver, Washington (1919 NE 78th Street), although this position also serves adjacent Cowlitz and Skamania Counties. The Cascade Mountains to the east and the Columbia River to the west and south frame Clark County's rolling countryside. Clark County's current population is 450,000. Adjacent to Portland, OR, the greater metropolitan area encompasses four counties and a population of 1.7 million. The inland ports at Vancouver and Portland provide an international flavor to the region's easy-going quality of life. The area offers a multitude of recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities for virtually everyone.

Clark County has 2100 farms with 74,758 acres, with the average size of 39 acres. Many direct market farms are less than 20 acres. The farm gate value of products is \$50.8 million, with 37% in crop sales and 63% in livestock sales. Clark County hosts a growing wine industry and has grown from just a couple in 2000 to over 20 currently; several micro-distillers have appeared in the last few years. Food processing comprises a \$364 million industry, with the top three involving milk, fryers, and berries. See [http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/53011\\_00](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/53011_00) for quick facts on Clark County.

Cowlitz County has 101,000 people and an area of 1166 square miles. Cowlitz County is located on the Columbia River, adjacent to the Portland metropolitan area. The county has two active ports, a highly-productive wood-products industry, two paper mills, a diverse manufacturing base and good rail and interstate highway linkages. The county is also bounded on the west by the Columbia River and on the East by the Cascade Mountains. Gateway to Mt. St. Helens and parts of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, many recreational opportunities abound. Cowlitz County has 492 farms comprising 39,009 acres, with a farm gate value of \$28.8 million. See <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/53015> for quick facts on Cowlitz County.

Skamania County is located immediately east of Clark County and is predominately in forest with 80% of the county forming part of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Fifteen percent of county land is designated as part of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, which surrounds most of the county's population centers along the southern part. Tourism and outdoor recreation, such as world-renowned windsurfing and white water rafting, draw many people to this beautiful and unique county. Skamania County's population is just over 11,000 people. Skamania County has 144 farms on 5,472 acres with a farm gate value of \$5.5 million. See <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/53059> for quick facts on Skamania County.

**THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES:**

The College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) at Washington State University is an expansive and diverse college that includes 16 academic units and four research and extension centers distributed across the state, 13 subject matter centers, and one tribal and 39 county extension offices. CAHNRS fosters disciplines that serve at the interface of scientific discovery and its application to the advancement of society and improvement of the human experience. Our mission is to provide global leadership in discovering, accessing, and disseminating knowledge that contributes to producing a safe, abundant food and fiber supply; promotes the well-being of individuals, families, and communities; enhances the sustainability of agricultural and economic systems; and promotes stewardship of natural resources and ecological systems. In all dimensions of our mission, we strive to embody the signature "World Class, Face to Face" motto of Washington State University. CAHNRS personnel embrace the opportunity to fulfill the University's land-grant mission by making groundbreaking research discoveries, by utilizing innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and by delivering relevant, progressive extension programs that synergistically generate outcomes that enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Washington State, as well as for people around the globe. To learn more about CAHNRS, visit: <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu>.

**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY:**

Founded in 1889, Washington State University is a comprehensive land-grant university with teaching, research, and extension missions, and one of two research universities in Washington State. WSU is organized into 10 academic colleges, the Honors College, and the Graduate School. It has an enrollment of more than 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students on 4 campuses (Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver) with approximately 20,000 students located on the main campus in Pullman, WA. WSU ranks among the top 60 public research universities and is a Carnegie I, Doctoral/Research Extensive University. WSU strongly values diversity among its faculty, staff, and students, and seeks to ensure a welcoming community for all. To learn more about WSU visit: <http://www.wsu.edu>.

**THE AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION PROGRAM UNIT**

The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension Program Unit is one of three program units of WSU Extension within the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) at Washington State University. The work of the ANR Unit faculty spans a broad range of expertise that includes agronomic and horticultural crops; animal agriculture; water resources; environmental stewardship; forestry; rangeland management; farm management; marketing; apiculture; integrated pest management; pesticide safety; and urban horticulture. In addition, ANR Unit personnel lead interdisciplinary efforts in local food systems and regional food policy, providing increased economic opportunities for farmers and consumers. For more information, visit: <http://anr.cw.wsu.edu/>

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYER. Members of ethnic minorities, women, special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans, persons of disability and/or persons age 40 and over are encouraged to apply.

**WSU is committed to excellence through diversity, has faculty friendly policies including a partner accommodation program, and a NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant (see <http://www.excelinse.wsu.edu/>.)**

WSU employs only U.S. citizens and lawfully authorized non-U.S. citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Washington State University is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact Human Resource Services: 509-335-4521(v), Washington State TDD Relay Service: Voice Callers: 1-800-833-6384; TDD Callers: 1-800-833-6388, 509-335-1259(f), or [hrs@wsu.edu](mailto:hrs@wsu.edu).