

Research Specialist
Crop Sciences
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

WE TRANSFORM LIVES.

Everything we do is designed to improve the quality of life of the people in the state of Illinois, across the nation, and around the world. We discover, develop, translate, and disseminate knowledge to address societal concerns and train the next generation of experts and leaders in a way that empowers them to expand the boundaries of science to higher levels of understanding and influence.

The Department of Crop Sciences within the College of Consumer, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences offers world-class laboratory, greenhouse, and field research facilities as well as state of the art teaching facilities. The University of Illinois also offers outstanding facilities in computing, data science, and genomic analysis as well as many other areas of potential support.

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability or veteran status. For more information, visit <http://go.illinois.edu.EEO>

PRIMARY FUNCTION

Conduct field research trials, establish and carry out agronomic management of field research trials.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Field research trial operations

- Carry out all aspects of field research trial management including fertilization, pest management, and irrigation.
- Plant and harvest research trials and seed increases.
- Calibrate and operate specialized research equipment including tractors, planters, sprayers, combines, and threshers.
- Utilize specialized software and GPS to achieve precise planting and trial management.
- Load/unload, tie-down, and haul equipment to off-site trial locations in order to plant, manage, and harvest trials at multiple locations across the state of Illinois.
- Utilize data management software and excel to document and plan work activities, timelines, and schedules.
- Assist in making decisions about the application of agricultural inputs including fertilizer and pesticides as appropriate to achieve project objectives.
- Assist with field site selection and developing field layouts.
- Coordinate with students, program staff, farm managers, and cooperators as needed to carry out trials.

General breeding program operations

- Conduct wheat and oat breeding population advancement and cross pollination in the greenhouse.
- Process grain and manage seed; including seed packaging, inventory, storage and disposal.
- Take data and notes on research plots
- Instruct and oversee hourly workers.

Research equipment optimization

- Maximize the data quality and output from mechanized operations.
- Care for and monitor field research equipment and coordinate with specialized mechanics to maintain all equipment in excellent working condition.
- Carry out basic field repairs as the need arises.
- Coordinate and ensure the routine maintenance of trucks and trailers.

EDUCATION

Required: B.S. in agronomy, crop science, or a related field

EXPERIENCE

Required: At least 2 years of experience working in an agricultural research program. Prior experience operating and maintaining field research equipment including planters, combines, sprayers and tractors. Experience hauling equipment.

TRAINING, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Preferred: Possession of, or an ability to obtain, an Illinois public/Research pesticide Applicator's license within 6 months' of starting this position.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS and ABILITIES

Knowledge of agronomic management of small grains and/or other cereals. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge of common field research trial layouts. Ability to quickly learn how to use specialized research farm equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEMANDS

Ability to work evenings and weekends and to travel overnight as the need arises. Ability to lift 50 pounds.

APPOINTMENT STATUS

This is a 12-month, 100% professional position.

SALARY

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience

PROPOSED STARTING DATE

This position is available as soon as possible after the closing date.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Please create your candidate profile at <http://jobs.illinois.edu> and upload a cover letter indicating your qualifications, resume, and contact information for three professional references by December 13, 2021. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered.

For further information regarding application procedures, you may contact Linda Kemplin, kemplin@illinois.edu. You may also visit <http://cropsci.illinois.edu> for additional information.

University of Illinois faculty, staff and students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not able to receive the vaccine for medical or religious reasons, you may seek approval for an exemption in accordance with applicable University processes.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System [uses E-Verify](#) to verify [employment eligibility](#). The University of Illinois System requires candidates selected for hire to disclose any documented finding of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment and to authorize inquiries to current and former employers regarding findings of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. For more information, visit [Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment](#).
