

The Marais des Cygnes District is comprised of Linn and Miami counties on the eastern border of Kansas. The total population of the district is approximately 42,300. The district staff includes five extension agents, a nutrition program assistant, two nutrition assistants, a 4-H program assistant, and three office professionals. The district's two offices are located in Paola, a quickly growing suburb of the Kansas City area and Mound City, a rural community along Highway 52, five miles west of Highway 69. This position will give leadership to crop production, horticulture and offers an excellent opportunity for the continued growth of a dynamic program, which incorporates large-scale commercial agricultural operations as well as small acreage enterprises. The district has a successful and established Master Gardener program.

TITLE: Marais des Cygnes District Extension Agent

PRIMARY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY: Crop Production and Horticulture

LOCATION: Offices in Mound City and Paola. Primary location for this position is Paola, Kansas.

APPLICATION DATE: Screening of applications will begin August 11, 2017 and continue until the position is filled. This position is available on or after August 11, 2017. The starting date is negotiable.

Responsibilities:

Extension agents are professional educators who serve as a link between Kansas State University and communities across Kansas. Agents are administratively responsible to the Director of K-State Research and Extension (represented by a designated administrator) and the local extension board.

1. Provide primary leadership for the development, dissemination and implementation of research-based educational programs related to production, management and marketing issues involved in crop production. Programs will include but are not limited to: tillage, planting, and variety selection; irrigation; weed, disease, and pest control; soil testing and fertilization; harvesting and post-harvest handling; sustainable practices; soil and water conservation and quality; risk management including crop marketing, crop insurance, and farm bill; decision tools including crop leasing arrangements; and bio-energy.
2. Provide primary leadership for the dissemination of research-based information and implementation and development of horticulture educational programs. Programming will include, but not be limited to: horticulture crop production, marketing and economics, conservation of natural resources, horticultural waste management, and landscape maintenance and improvement. Provide leadership to the Master Gardener Program.
3. Provide support for 4-H youth development programming related to crop production, livestock and horticulture.
4. Programming will include these steps:
 - a) Identify local needs and emerging issues related to K-State Research and Extension's five Grand Challenges (water, community vitality, health, developing tomorrow's leaders and global food systems) by engaging with program development committees and other community organizations and professionals.
 - b) Design appropriate educational strategies to engage clientele. These strategies might include delivering educational programming in a community-based setting, coordinating events and activities that provide experiential learning opportunities, using innovative technologies, providing individual educational consultations and facilitating groups seeking similar educational outcomes. Some overnight travel, evening and weekend work will be required.
 - c) Develop and implement strategies to expand the reach of educational programming to under-served audiences and to make certain K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider of educational programming.
 - d) Collect evidence of educational program impact.
 - e) Develop specialized knowledge and skills by engaging as a member of the Crop Production or Horticulture Program Focus Team.
5. Secure external funding such as grants, gifts and cost recovery to supplement local tax revenue to support and expand educational programming.
6. Serve as a member of the Marais des Cygnes District team cooperating in the planning and delivery of district-wide programming and related events.



QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Bachelor's degree with knowledge of crop production and/or horticulture sciences as evidenced by academic courses, professional development and/or professional experience.
- Evidence of strong academic and/or professional performance as documented by college transcripts, acceptance into a graduate program or documented success in increasingly responsible professional positions.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals, groups and through mass media.
- Leadership skills as evidenced by working with individuals, groups and co-workers.
- Access to a personal vehicle and the ability to obtain/maintain a valid driver's license.

Preferred:

- Master's Degree.
- Experience working with adults and youth from various ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Commitment to personal professional development.
- Ability to utilize electronic communication and computer applications to fulfill programming responsibilities.
- Self-motivation and ability to work with a minimum of supervision, balancing multiple projects.
- Ability to design, promote, implement and evaluate educational programs.
- Skills in group facilitation.
- Knowledge of adult and youth teaching/learning processes.
- Experience in seeking and administering external grant funding.

SALARY, BENEFITS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Salary commensurate with professional experience and available funding as negotiated by the area extension director, the local extension board and the applicant. The base starting salary is \$39,000 for a BS degree with no professional experience and \$42,000 for a MS degree with no professional experience.
2. Extension agents are Kansas State University educators and have the Board of Regents retirement plan, health and life insurance and vacation and sick leave. Depending on the date of hire there is a minimum of 30-day waiting period for health insurance. For a complete list of benefits see: <http://www.k-state.edu/hcs/benefits/overview/>
3. Reimbursement for travel related to achieving program objectives.
4. New agents are provided approximately 15 days of new agent professional development on the K-State campus during the first six to nine months. These 15 days are spread out in four different weeks. In addition, new agents spend at least three weeks with a mentor agent during the first year.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

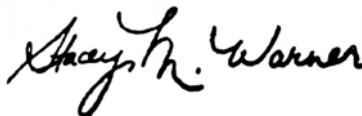
Submit application using the Kansas State University job application site: <http://careers.k-state.edu/cw/en-us/job/501814/marais-des-cygnés-district-crop-production-and-horticulture-extension-agent>

For more information about the position, contact Stacey Warner, Leader, Ext Operations, 785-532-5790, or swarner@ksu.edu.

To hear personal accounts from Extension Agents, preview videos at www.ksre.k-state.edu/jobs.

For more information about K-State Research and Extension, visit: www.ksre.k-state.edu.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer of individuals with disabilities and protected veterans and actively seeks diversity among its employees.



Stacey M. Warner
Leader, Extension Operations

7/13/17

Position #17-29

