

Extension Educator

Position Description

An extension educator is a professional employee of the state's land grant university. They provide educational programs in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development and community and rural development. They work statewide with key agricultural partners and monitor both state and federal legislative action. Individuals plan and teach educational activities for youth and adults, write grants and journal articles and apply research-based theories. They teach class, run workshops and academies for youth and producers and answer questions related to animal agriculture. They work with 4-H clubs, both members and volunteers to promote the 4-H program in the community and counties they serve. Another part of the job is to plan, conduct and evaluate 4-H camps and contests, such as dairy judging, quiz bowl, etc. The job typically requires travel to a couple of off-site meetings per month and conferences per year.

Education Requirements

- A bachelor's degree or higher education is required.
- A Master's degree must be obtained usually within seven years of taking the job and is required to receive promotions.

Helpful Skill Set

- Good communication skills and able to work with a diverse group of people.
- Adept at problem solving and resolving conflicts.
- Able to multitask.
- Knowledge of policy, budgets, communications and project and program management.
- Meeting coordination, communications and a love of working with animals and land.

Network Development

- Participate in 4-H and breed related activities.
- Join college clubs.
- Work on political campaigns and volunteer for affiliated non-profits.
- Networking with other ag related industries.
- Other organizations to seek: National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, FFA, YMCA, BGA, Scouts, and/or any organization that uses volunteers to make positive impacts in the community.

Work Experience

- Seek internships with local extension office.
- Seek volunteer opportunities, having a wide range of experiences working with youth and serving in club leadership roles.

Keywords

extension, agriculture, education, 4-H, volunteer, community, mentorship, leader

