

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Agricultural Research Technician

Class Code: 80605

Pay Grade: GD

A. Purpose:

Provides assistance in agricultural research through the preparation of experimental research plots and animal herds and the recording and compilation of research data.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

The Agricultural Research Technician cares for livestock on a research farm or institution, performs field work, operates feed processing mills, weighs and packages seed for seeding research plots and pollinates and cross pollinates plants; records research data as prescribed by a project leader and prepares, maintains and harvests field research plots.

Senior Agricultural Research Technician conducts research projects that have been developed by a project leader; designs and conducts research, summarizes the data collected and prepares the final report; and develops new flora or fauna lines and analyzes samples.

The Agricultural Research Manager/Specialist is responsible for performing specialized functions or independently managing a major area or areas of an agricultural research project or livestock unit. The incumbent assists or serves as the project leader in one or more of the following areas: planning, supervising, and assigning tasks in such areas as a greenhouse, seed house, livestock unit and/or field operation; developing, maintaining and modifying computer systems and electronic equipment for agricultural research; working with co-operators; and/or performing agricultural laboratory management duties.

The Agricultural Foreman serves as a lead worker over senior agricultural research technicians and agricultural research technicians by assigning and reviewing work; feeds and cares for livestock; collects and records research data; repairs and maintains equipment, buildings and grounds; and operates feed processing mills and farm machinery.

The Farm Manager supervises and directs the activities of farm labor personnel at a research station or inmates if a Farm Manager is at a penitentiary.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions that may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Care for animal herds to ensure a healthy herd.
 - a. Feeds livestock.
 - b. Grooms livestock.
 - c. Vaccinates livestock.
2. Maintains field plots so the research project can be conducted properly.
 - a. Prepares the plot.
 - b. Plants the crop.
 - c. Harvests the crop.
3. Collects and records research data to be used to determine the results of an agricultural project.
4. Operates all types of farm machinery to carry out assigned duties.

5. Maintains farm buildings and machinery to maintain a healthy and safe environment.
 - a. Cleans barns and stalls.
 - b. Repairs buildings and fences.
 - c. Repairs equipment and machinery.
 - d. Mows the grass.
 - e. Removes snow.
6. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Reports to the Agricultural Foreman.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenged to accurately collect and record research data.

Typical problems include maintaining a healthy herd by keeping animals rid of disease through the use of medication; following the established experiment procedure so the experiment is accurate, taking accurate field notes and repairing equipment quickly so very little time is lost.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions made include determining if animals are sick and the medication and amount of medication to be given each animal; work assignments of the part-time and work study students, the repair needs of equipment and when to move livestock to different pens or pastures.

Decisions referred include designing the experiments, determining the collection date of research data, prioritizing the work schedule, and approving all major expense repairs; approving supply orders.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with a supervisor, a lead worker or the designer of the research project being conducted to review work, assign new work or answer questions the incumbent may have regarding the research project. Occasional contacts with veterinarians to treat sick animals.

H. Working Conditions:

Works at farm research stations. They are required to be outdoors a majority of the time. They work with and around animals, chemicals, and pesticides, all of which can be potentially hazardous to one's health. Heavy lifting of animals and bags of fertilizer feed is also required of this position.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- basic procedures and techniques required to analyze laboratory results;
- basic horticultural, range and/or greenhouse management practices;
- safety requirements for working with or around machinery, chemicals, and/or large and small animals;
- computer operation and software use;

- basic greenhouse operations including the propagation of plants.

Ability to:

- communicate information clearly and concisely;
- perform acceptable farming procedures and practices;
- operate and maintain field, research, and chemical application equipment;
- do hard physical labor for several hours at a time in all weather conditions.