

AGRICULTURAL AND STANDARDS INSPECTOR I

DEFINITION

Under supervision, to perform routine and complex inspections and investigations; to enforce laws and regulations pertaining to the California Food and Agricultural Code, Business and Professions Code and the California Code of Regulation. Learn and perform pest regulation, pest prevention, inspection, and regulation. Inspect and test weighing and measuring devices; to verify consumer transactions and product quality; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry and first working level in the Agricultural and Standards Inspector class series. Incumbents work under relatively close supervision until they gain experience and obtain the requisite State Licenses to work as an experienced Agricultural and Standards Inspector.

REPORTS TO

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures or Agricultural and Standards Inspector III as designated

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Assists with inspections of fruits, nuts, vegetables, honey, eggs, or other agricultural commodities in markets, packinghouses, and storage areas for compliance with regulations related to standards and grades.
- Issues certificates of inspection.
- May order recondition or destruction of produce deemed to be below minimum standards.
- Assists with inspection of nurseries for plant pest and diseases.
- Assists with inspection of incoming plant shipments for evidence of disease, pests, or noxious weed seeds.
- Assists with inspection of transported agricultural commodities to insure that they are free from injurious insects or plant disease.
- Issues pesticide permits and may inspect pesticide application to crops.
- Assists with the inspection of apiaries.
- Assists with the examination of fields, orchards, roadways, and cultivated areas to determine the location and extent of rodent, weed, bird, insect, predator, and plant disease infestations.
- Assists with the control and eradication of plants, weeds, rodents, birds, and other pests.
- May certify or specify the treatment of agricultural products as a condition of movement or shipment.
- Assists with inspecting seeds and seed shipments for noxious weed seeds.
- May operate trucks, spray rigs, and other equipment.
- May assist with applying herbicides for weed and brush control.
- Assists with inspecting, testing, and sealing commercial weighing and measuring devices.
- Assists with weighing, measuring, and counting the contents of packaged commodities to verify the accuracy of labels.
- Assists with inspecting and investigating weigh master licenses.
- Collects petroleum product samples for testing to insure stated qualities.
- Investigates complaints related to consumer transactions.
- Prepares records and reports of inspections and tests conducted.
- Takes appropriate enforcement actions.
- Performs needed maintenance on equipment.
- Provides information to growers and homeowners regarding pest problems.
- Assists with gathering information for annual crop reports.

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TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; walk, stand, or crouch on narrow, slippery, and erratically moving surfaces. Stoop, kneel, bend to pick up or move heavy objects; physical ability to lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 lbs. May crawl through various areas requiring moving on hands and knees; walk for long distances; walk on sloped ground/floor and uneven surfaces. Need normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed both in office and outdoor environments; some exposure to controlled and hazardous substances; some exposure to smoke, gases, and fumes; continuous contact with staff and the public.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Basic knowledge and understanding of pertinent State and Federal laws and regulations related to the functions of the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Sealer of Weights and Measures.
- Proper inspection methods and procedures.
- Statistical testing techniques.
- Common agricultural practices of County crops.
- Construction, mechanics, and operation of scales, meters, and other weighing and measuring devices.
- Proper packaging and identification of commodity contents.
- Common pest control methods.
- Microsoft Office Suite

Ability to:

- Assist with the interpretation and enforcement of agricultural and weights and measures laws and regulations.
- Perform field inspections and gather a variety of information and data.
- Assist with gathering and maintaining information concerning County crops.
- Prepare and maintain records and reports.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions and policies.
- Maintain effective communications and good relations with the public.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
- Operate trucks, dollies, cranes, ATVs and spray trucks.
- Travel extensively throughout Plumas and Sierra counties.

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Training and Experience:

Qualifications needed for this position:

Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in agricultural, biological, chemical or physical sciences;

OR

Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in any discipline with a minimum of 30 semester units in one or any combination of the following disciplines: agricultural, biological, chemical or physical sciences.

One year of weights and measures enforcement or agricultural pest control experience is desirable.

Special Requirements:

Possession of minimum qualifications for admittance to State of California qualifying examinations for County Agricultural Inspector and Weights and Measures licenses.

Possession of one or more Agricultural and Standards Inspector/Biologist or Weights and Measures Inspector core licenses issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture County Licensing Program, within one (1) year of an appointment to the position.

**Core Licenses: Pesticide Regulation, Investigation and Environmental Monitoring, Integrated Pest Management, Commodity Regulation, Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation, Weight Verification, Measurement Verification, and Transaction and Product Verification.*

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Drivers License by the time of appointment and maintained throughout employment. The Commissioner/Sealer may require possession of a Commercial Driver's License based upon the program needs of the department.

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through State law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all Disaster Service Work-related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.