

COUNTY OF SOLANO

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGIST/WEIGHTS & MEASURES INSPECTOR

DEFINITION

Promotes and protects agriculture while ensuring a safe, affordable and abundant food supply and environmental protection through enforcement of State laws and regulations; ensures equity in the marketplace through enforcement of laws and regulations associated with transactions involving a count, weight or measure; performs inspections and pest detection; enforces pesticide use; maintains related records; issues violation notices and recommend hearings or prosecutions; and performs related duties as required.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the journey level in the Agricultural Biologist/Weights and Measures Inspector series. Incumbents independently perform daily assignments in their areas of licensing within the assigned program and assist others in areas for which licensing has not yet been attained. Incumbents may be assigned to multiple program areas and may assume responsibility for ensuring that program components are completed in a timely manner by program staff. This class requires extensive public contact in enforcement of laws and regulations. This class is distinguished from that of Agricultural Biologist/Weights and Measures Inspector (Senior) in that the latter works as a lead worker on special projects.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from the Agricultural Biologist/Weights and Measures Supervisor.

May provide training to lower level staff under the supervision of the program supervisor.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Depending on assignment, duties may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Inspects incoming shipments of plant material arriving at post offices, railroad, boat terminals, retail and wholesale nurseries and other points of entry to ensure compliance with federal, state and local quarantines; inspects agricultural products for evidence of diseases or insect infestation; enforces plant quarantines and supervises treatment or destruction of quarantined products/materials; collects, identifies and submits for analysis specimens from shipments for detection of pests; inspects feed and grain mills to ascertain freedom from weed seed pests; issues state and local certificates for agricultural commodities destined for export to other countries, states and counties; inspects weighing and measuring devices for accuracy; issues out-of-order tags and schedules re-inspections to ensure correction of problems.
2. Inspects pesticide mixing, loading, storage and disposal operations; inspects facilities, records, and areas in which pesticides are sold, stored and used; ensures compliance with health and safety laws and regulations; ensures proper notifications prior to pesticide applications; issues or denies use permits; conducts pre-site inspections to prevent contamination of public and private properties and waterways; investigates episodes of alleged human illness, crop or property loss, adverse environmental impact or other effects;

trains pest control advisers, field workers and employees in the proper and safe application of pesticides; inspects packaged commodities for appropriate net weight or measure as labeled; inspects petroleum products and compressed gasses for contamination, proper labeling and accurate metering.

3. Inspects commercial crops, range land and right-of-ways to detect, manage, control and eradicate pests; visits residents, County and city parks to assist in identifying and controlling garden and household pests; conducts surveys to determine the presence or spread of pests; collects insects, nematodes and diseased plants for laboratory analysis; sells bait for rodent and other vertebrate pest management/control; sets and inspects traps to detect pests such as gypsy moths or fruit flies.
4. Conducts surveys and checks for infestations of various weeds, especially noxious weeds; controls infestations by cutting weeds or by applying herbicides; surveys high hazard areas and submits samples of unknown plants for identification.
5. Inspects retail markets, packing facilities, fruit and vegetable stands, warehouses and other places where fruits, vegetables, nuts, honey and/or eggs are sold to enforce standards for quality, freshness, proper labeling of containers, maturity, size, freedom from insects, mold, decay and mechanical damage; issues certificates to permit individuals to sell products; certifies fruits, vegetables, nuts and honey for shipment; inspects egg wholesale and retail sites for compliance with quality standards; consults with/advises program supervisor of significant incidents or finds.
6. Inspects nurseries for evidence of insects or diseases; quality and care of plants, proper plant and product labeling; supervises treatment of soil for nematode or other pest control; provides guidance and information to nurseries concerning pest control, plant identification and care; certifies eligibility of nursery for operation.
7. Visits stores and seed storage facilities to inspect seeds for compliance with federal and state seed laws; checks labeling, purity of seed percentage of mixtures of variety seeds; takes samples; inspects certified mill harvesters and equipment; issues certificates and inter-County seed permits.
8. Inspects beehives for diseased colonies; registers hives and enforces regulations for registration, movement notices and notifications of pesticide applications; enforces quarantine regulations for imported hives.
9. Tests light capacity scales (e.g., computing, spring, counter, monorail, platform, jeweler, prescription, and point of sales scales) for accuracy, correctness, and appropriate electrical/mechanical functions; seals or condemns scales based on outcome of testing.
10. Tests heavy capacity scales (e.g., livestock, factory, agricultural, overhead hopper, truck, crane, and rail scales) for accuracy, correctness, and appropriate electrical/mechanical functions; uses forklift to apply and properly spot 500-pound and 1000-pound test weights on scale, up to 22,000 pounds of test weights; drives large flatbed truck with trailer to

move test weights; uses hand cart to move up to 9000 pounds of weights to each scale section; seals or condemns scales based on outcome of testing.

11. Conducts weigh master inspections and audits for accuracy; maintains appropriate records.
12. Verifies tare weights of vehicles, boxes, bins, pallets, and gas cylinders.
13. Tests light capacity measuring devices (i.e., fabric measuring devices, wire/cordage meters, liquid measuring devices, taximeters, odometers, and metal tape measure devices) for accuracy, tolerance, correctness, and maintenance; seals or condemns devices based on outcome of testing.
14. Tests light capacity devices (i.e., electric, water, and vapor submeters) used as utility submeters for accuracy, tolerance, and correctness; seals or condemns devices based on outcome of testing.
15. Tests liquid petroleum gas meters for accuracy, correctness, tolerance, and maintenance; utilizes a 101-gallon prover pulled behind a truck in testing procedure; seals or condemns liquid petroleum gas meters based on outcome of testing.
16. Uses a 100-gallon prover to test vehicle meters liquid and petroleum meters on delivery trucks for accuracy and correctness; seals or condemns meters based on outcome of testing.
17. Tests trucks and truck trailers which are subdivided into compartments, and seals test-proven capacity markers, using water and liquid gasses; operates pumps during testing procedure.
18. Tests retail service station petroleum dispensers to determine accuracy; inspects hose condition and device functioning; seals or condemns dispensers based on outcome of testing; test diesel fast-flow meters with a 100-gallon prover.
19. Issues warnings and instructions for violations of agriculture or weights and measures laws or regulations; gathers evidence and prepares reports for administrative hearings or court actions; testifies at hearings and in court; may train less experienced staff; maintains accurate records, maps and files.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge/Skills/Abilities

Knowledge of:

Goals and objectives of a comprehensive agricultural inspection and regulation program.

Federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations governing agricultural inspection and weights and measures regulations in the areas of licensing.

Depending upon licenses, considerable knowledge is required in several of the following areas: types and uses of pesticides, herbicides and baits.

Types of weeds and pests found in the County and effective methods for the management, control, eradication or prevention of infestations.

Various species of plants; types of agricultural products from the County and symptoms/causes of damage to these products.

Symptoms of diseased beehives.

Methods and techniques used in the inspection of various weighing and measuring devices, including those dispensing petroleum and compressed gases.

Geographical, topographical, demographical and entomological make up of Solano County botany and zoology.

Skills to:

Utilize basic office equipment, including computers and various software programs, and related tools including trapping poles, staple guns, hand tools, microscopes, and an Anemometer.

Ability to:

Work independently in areas for which licensing has been obtained.

Understand, interpret and explain laws, regulations and policies governing agricultural program operations.

Project consequences of decisions.

Determine the appropriate course of action in emergency or stressful situations.

Understand program objectives in relation to departmental goals and procedures.

Collect and analyze data to draw logical conclusions and make appropriate recommendations.

Comply with laws, regulations and professional practices governing agricultural programs, services and operations.

Implement and carry out a variety of agricultural program objectives.

Maintain accurate records and document actions taken.

Research regulations, procedures and/or technical reference materials.

Gather evidence and testify at administrative hearings and in court.

Gather samples to identify plants, animals, pests, weeds, diseases and damage to plants, and agricultural products.

Assist growers, residents, retailers, and others in complying with agricultural standards and regulations through timely inspections, certification and issuance of permits and instruction/explanation of laws, regulations, methods and procedures.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing; compose correspondence independently.

Establish, maintain, and foster positive and harmonious working relationships with those contacted in the course of work; exhibit tact and diplomacy; provide effective liaison between the department and the public.

Keep abreast of major changes in assigned program.

Experience and Education/Training

Experience:

One year in inspection, pest detection, pest prevention, and weights and measures enforcement activities equivalent to the Agricultural Biologist/Weights and Measures Inspector Trainee level.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Incumbents must possess both of the following specific category licenses of eligibility as a County Inspector/Biologist issued by the California Department of Food & Agriculture:

- a) Pesticide Regulation; and
- b) Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation;

and must also possess one of the following County Weights/Measures Inspector licenses issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture:

- a) Weights Verification; or
- b) Measurement Verification[CDM].

Possession of or ability to obtain a valid Class C or higher level California driver's license is required. Some assignments may require incumbents to obtain a valid Class A California driver's license.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

ADA Compliance

Physical Ability: Tasks require the regular and sustained performance of moderately physically demanding work, typically involving some combination of climbing and balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and crawling, and that generally involves lifting, carrying, pushing, and/or pulling of moderately heavy objects and materials (20-50 pounds); may occasionally involve lifting or moving heavier objects and materials (up to 100 pounds).

Sensory Requirements: Some tasks require visual perception and discrimination. Some tasks require oral communications ability.

Environmental Factors: Performance of essential functions may require exposure to adverse environmental conditions, such as dirt, dust, odors, wetness, humidity, rain, temperature and noise extremes, fumes, hazardous materials, machinery, electric currents, traffic hazards, bright/dim light, toxic agents, disease, pathogenic substances, animal/wildlife attacks, or animal/insect bites. Incumbents may be exposed to chemicals, plant/animal diseases, or poison oak; must have a tolerance for chemical and agricultural odors.

Other

Independent travel will be required.

Incumbents will be required to drive autos or small trucks through fields or orchards; walk agricultural lands in various weather conditions; may be required to spend a great deal of time in a vehicle during hot weather.

Some assignments will require operation of a fork life and/or heavy capacity truck or crane.

Positions allocated to this class may require bilingual skills.

Incumbents in this class may be subject to, depending on job assignment, drug and alcohol testing as required under the Federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Testing includes post-accident and pre-employment, as well as random and reasonable suspicion testing as required by law.

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