

AREA TERMINAL PRODUCE INSPECTOR

KIND OF WORK

Technical work inspecting fresh fruit and vegetables at terminal receiving markets and at shipping point locations.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, an employee in this class is responsible for making inspections and investigations of all varieties of fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts received in the state and to correctly certify their quality and condition. Inspections are required by wholesalers, shippers, state and federal institutions and growers. The employee also inspects Minnesota grown produce for grade and condition at shipping point locations during the marketing season. Inspection procedures follow prescribed state and federal standards established by regulation. Certificates must be correctly written for each inspection. An inspector must possess or be qualified for a federal collaborator's license with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, attend federal training courses as provided and be able to inspect 82 different commodities for which standards are developed. Performs related work as required.

Technical direction is provided by federal supervisor of fresh fruit and vegetables. Duties are coordinated with several other produce inspectors in the area. His/her general activity is under direction of the state supervisor who may assign other tasks related to the work of the department.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Inspect produce commodities, as requested by producers, dealers, and users, so that quality and condition are determined and the needs of all clientele are met by examining lot and making rough notes; determining grade by proper interpretation of standards and instructions; examining and describing conveyance, equipment, and/or condition of packages and load; reporting results of inspection to applicant upon completion of inspection; writing certificate and presenting to office for recording and distribution; writing Canadian and shipping point certificates and presenting to applicant; and determining proper fees, mileage and overtime application.

Serve as a Inspector In-Charge of the grading line at Park Rapids during the fall processing inspections so that state and federal standards are followed by overseeing operation to make sure the proper grades are being applied in the correct manner; working with new employees so they can become efficient at their duties; reporting all time and attendance to St. Paul; working with supervisor to attain the proper amount of employees needed so the inspection can be run in an effective manner; and notifying plant personnel of any equipment that is not in proper working order.

Assist in training new inspectors so that they may become competent and to work with other inspectors so that uniformity is maintained by explaining inspection procedures, forms, standards and guides to trainees; relaying general information concerning fruits and vegetables growing, marketing and industry practices; and demonstrating on the job inspection techniques, teaching identification of diseases, defects, problems and guiding trainees performance.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

State and federal laws, rules and regulations for grading produce sufficient to apply to inspection and certification procedures;

Appearance and characteristics for all types of fruits and vegetables sufficient to recognized defects;

Effects that insects, diseases, transportation storage and the environment may have on fresh produce sufficient to group defects under proper tolerance levels;

Trade methods and practices used by producers, shippers and buyers when marketing produce sufficient to identify possible causes of damage;

Operating methods used by industry, agricultural marketing organizations, state and federal agencies sufficient to perform effective inspections and issue certificates.

Ability to:

Understand written and oral directions sufficient to carry out inspections and issue certificates;

Keep records sufficient to report results of inspection upon completion and to write certificate;

Safety practices and procedures sufficient to prevent accidents and injuries while performing inspections.

Communicate effectively sufficient to provide direction to others in performing inspections;

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Class Specification

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LEGAL OR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS (these must be met by all employees prior to beginning work in the class)

Possession of and maintain a Federal Collaborators license.

Est.: 2/5/47, Ckd. 3/6/68

Rev.: 10/78, Ckd. 3/81

4/92

TC: 7/2/69

Former Title(s):