

## AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT

### KIND OF WORK

The third of three classes in a class series in agricultural professional regulatory work or professional technical support work related to pesticides, fertilizer, noxious weeds, seed, commercial feed, food, meat and poultry including advanced technical work in special investigations and inspections.

### NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, an employee in this class conducts a specific program function relating to the manufacture, storage, distribution, use, and disposal of regulated products. Employees in this class work with significant latitude in performing the more difficult and complex assignments and responsibilities, and provide work direction in a lead capacity to Agricultural Advisors and Specialists. Perform related work as requested or required.

An employee in this class requires increased specialized professional knowledge of scientific or regulatory principles and involved practices acquired through an accumulation of job experience and/or more advanced job related educational/technical course work. This knowledge is applied within the agency to effectively recommend to management enforcement strategies, new and revised legislation, site investigation and response practices, establishment inspection and violation investigation methods, and to direct and monitor the work activities of other professional staff. Externally, the employee represents the department to state, federal and local jurisdictions, as well as to regulated persons, responsible parties, and the public.

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Consultant: The incumbent is generally a program lead worker or makes decisions of considerable importance with a high degree of independence. Incumbents also may be required to represent the department and state on major policy issues and negotiations. Incumbents may need an exceptional mastery of a specific area to the extent that they provide advice and recommend policy directly to the division director and commissioner.

Advisor: The incumbent makes decisions, conducts negotiations and training with local government representatives, plans field work, or plans and conducts difficult and complex investigations and interviews with limited oversight.

### OPTIONS

All unlimited classified positions in this class must have options.

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

Review and oversee approval of certifications and permits for agricultural chemical facilities, bulk storage, and chemigation systems and designs intended for use with agricultural chemicals in order to reduce environmental contamination through the design, construction and installation of proper anti-pollution devices.

Lead inspections, sampling, and violation investigations. Conduct the most unusually difficult or complex investigations.

Review and endorse inspection reports, sample analysis reports and reports of violations investigations, and recommend appropriate enforcement actions.

Develop best management practices recommendations for use of environmentally critical pesticides and fertilizers.

Plan comprehensive enforcement systems for regulatory programs. Initiate, develop, review and evaluate enforcement case files. Determine appropriate and necessary enforcement actions against violators and responsible parties at incident sites.

Develop and coordinate training and training materials for a particular program area, and lead workshops, seminars, and other educational/training sessions.

Lead negotiations with and take enforcement actions against responsible parties at assigned sites within established time frames so that sites being financed under the state superfund are cleaned up by responsible parties.

Perform advanced technical investigations and/or lead investigations of food and food handlers which may include, but is not limited to, food borne illness investigations, regulatory compliance, special complaint assignments, construction plan review compliance, HACCP requirements, Minnesota Food Code, and Manager Certification requirements.

Monitor and evaluate the field activities of local health agencies with delegation agreements.

Perform investigations of food establishments so that food wholesomeness, labeling, facilities and temperatures meet state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

Issue an embargo and/or condemn unwholesome or adulterated food, and release food products back into food channels or condemn as unfit as human food.

License new food handlers and ensure existing food handlers maintain a current and appropriate license.

Monitor food handlers to ensure packaging, labeling, handling, distribution, and sale will not create a public hazard, fraud or jeopardize public health.

Prepare documentation for Administrative Meetings with violators leading to legal and court actions so that violators are brought into compliance.

Train new and existing Agricultural Specialists in food inspection and sampling techniques and in new or emerging food safety issues.

#### KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Natural and applied sciences such as soil science, hydrology, botany, zoology, agronomy, chemistry, ecology, public and environmental health, toxicology, entomology, physics or similar sciences sufficient to administer a comprehensive regulatory program.

Biological, chemical or physical sciences such as food, meat or animal science.

Industry practices for animal drugs, pesticides, fertilizers, food production and handling practices as they affect public and environmental health.

State and federal laws addressing regulated products, processes, and hazardous wastes.

For some positions, engineering background sufficient to read plans and specifications for agricultural/food facilities; for proposing, reviewing and designing site responses in regard to environmental site contamination; and sufficient to recommend charges, investigations, and remedial actions as necessary.

May need an exceptional mastery of a specific area to the extent that they provide advice and recommend policy directly to the division director and commissioner

Skills:

Advanced investigational skills.

Ability to:

Deal effectively with people.

Communicate clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing.

Maintain effective working relationships with public officials, regulated individuals and the general public.

Prepare technical and regulatory documents and correspondence.

Plan, assign, and oversee the work of office and field regulatory and technical support staff.

Plan, organize and implement an effective agricultural or food products regulatory program.

Plan and organize work assignments within a comprehensive regulatory program.

Lift 50 pounds.

#### SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS

Occasional proximity to hazardous agricultural chemicals or food borne pathogens and entry into private industry facilities.

Est.: 12/87  
Rev.: 8/97, 9/10

TC: 09/89, 3/94  
Former Title(s) : Pesticide Regulatory Consultant;  
Agricultural Chemical Consultant