**Title:** *Agent*

**Functional Title:** *Extension Educator, Agriculture and Food Systems*

**Position Number:** 103342

**Category Status:** *Faculty Non-Tenured, On Track, Full-Time*

**Unit*:*** *AGNR-UME-Southern Cluster (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties)*

**Home Office Location:** UME Charles County Office, 9501 Crain Highway, Bel Alton, MD 20611

**Position Summary/Purpose of Position:**

University of Maryland Extension (UME) seeks candidates for a 12-month tenure-track Extension Educator in the Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) Program. The AgFS Extension Educator is responsible for planning, organizing, developing, implementing, and evaluating Extension education programs for the agricultural and food systems communities as well as consumers. Specifically, this position will provide leadership and delivery of educational programming related to agronomy, fruits and vegetables, commercial horticulture, agribusiness management, livestock and poultry, and other areas of agriculture and food systems. This includes all aspects of production, harvesting, transport, storage, marketing, nutrient management, and sustainability issues. The position will conduct applied research and publish results that support the educational program. The AgFS Extension Educator will facilitate partnerships with local and state agencies, elected officials, communities, landowners, residents, industry, and environmental groups to develop economic opportunities while protecting and advocating for a science-based, responsible approach to agriculture, food, and the state’s natural resources. The faculty member will be on track for tenure and promotion to a higher rank in accordance with university policy and UME tenure guidelines within a defined timeframe.

**Responsibilities:**

* Develop, promote, implement, and evaluate agriculture and food systems education programs in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary’s Counties.
* Develop and provide leadership in row-crop and forage production, fruit and vegetable production, ornamental horticulture, agricultural engineering and technology, farm and agribusiness management, integrated pest management, pesticide safety and handling, nutrient management, financial management, livestock and poultry, and natural resources conservation for producers, as well as diverse and underserved populations in the Southern Cluster counties.
* Teach targeted audiences science-based farming practices, procedures, techniques, and skills that will ultimately result in positive behavioral and/or practice change over time.
* Serve on and work collaboratively with UME teams to identify and develop statewide priorities and signature programs, as well as determine how and where to implement them across the state.
* Establish a subject matter expertise in agriculture and food systems, and lead appropriate applied, problem-solving research in that area.
* Interpret and disseminate the latest research findings in fields relevant to the position using publications and state-of-the-art education and communication techniques.
* Develop grant-funded projects, including securing extramural funding, to create, enhance, and expand educational programs including applied research and demonstration projects.
* Perform teaching, scholarship, and service requirements of a faculty member of the University of Maryland. This is a tenure-track position requiring documented accomplishments in the areas of research, teaching, and service.
* Attend regular meetings of the Charles Soil Conservation District and the local Farm Bureau, maintaining a relationship with them.
* Serve as a point of contact for the Calvert Soil Conservation District and the local Farm Bureau.

**Qualifications:**

Required

* M.S. in agronomy, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agricultural sciences, animal science, horticulture, or a related field of study.
* Background required in agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, farm and agribusiness management, or horticulture.
* Evidence of excellent teaching and communication skills.
* Evidence of scholarship in research, extension, and outreach.
* Demonstrated leadership and management abilities with evidence of being able to work well with colleagues, volunteers, and diverse clientele.
* Evidence of ability to build UME Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect capacity through Extension program model.
* Flexible work schedule required for delivering evening and weekend educational programs and activities as determined by clientele availability and needs.
* Knowledge and use of computer technology for educational programming and management is required.
* Personal transportation and valid driver’s license required. Must be willing to travel within the assigned counties and the state.
* This position is subject to a Criminal History Record Check. Employment is contingent upon successful completion and clearance of the Criminal History Record Check.
* Must become a certified Maryland nutrient management advisor and obtain a commercial pesticide applicators license in category-10 public agency within 12 months of starting employment.

Preferred

* Ph.D. in agronomy, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agricultural sciences, animal science, horticulture, or related field of study.
* Extension or similar work experience (e.g., work in agricultural education, university outreach, business education). Experience working with volunteers is desirable.
* Demonstrated ability in acquiring grants and private funding to enhance research and outreach programming.
* Preference will be given to individuals with experience working with diverse audiences and all socioeconomic levels.

**Physical Demands of the Position:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

* **Nature of the Position:** This position frequently presents information through vocal and written communication to individuals of various ages, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds.
* **Physical Demands:** A routine part of this position's responsibilities would be to transport materials to and from teaching and event locations, including loading and unloading the vehicle. The employee will frequently lift and/or move items weighing up to 20 pounds. Set-up and teardown of displays, tables, and chairs would be necessary at many teaching sites.
* **Environmental:** Team driven, office environment of professional character, competence, and collaboration. Deadline driven in terms of program planning and reporting. This position requires the employee to work outdoors at certain times of the year, especially during the time field research, demonstrations, and meetings are conducted as well as annual county fair. This may occur during very hot and/or inclement weather.
* **Visual Acuity:** Visual acuity is required for preparing and analyzing written or computer data and presentations.

**Diversity Statement:**

The University of Maryland, College Park, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action; all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, political affiliation, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment, in all aspects of employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.

**Salary & Benefits:**

Salary will be commensurate with experience: Master’s Base: $62,255; Ph.D. Base: $74,354. The University of Maryland offers an extensive [benefits package](https://uhr.umd.edu/benefits) which includes tuition remission.

**Applications:**

All candidates must apply online at <https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/107999>. A complete application packet includes a letter of application, a current (signed) curriculum vitae, copies of transcripts (official transcripts will be required if offered the position), and three (3) professional references, including name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

**Closing Date:** For best consideration, apply by **July 9, 2023** or until an acceptable candidate is identified.