

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Title:** Grower Outreach & Extension Specialist  
**Reports To:** Director of Grower Education

### **Overview:**

The Grower Outreach & Extension Specialist will serve as the key liaison to provide support to strawberry growing operations along the Central California coast. The Specialist will serve as a conduit for education opportunities, including best practices in production, safety and regulatory compliance. The Specialist will foster and maintain relationships with stakeholders to assess ongoing needs, facilitate CSC-sponsored production research and corresponding extension efforts. The Specialist will work with a team, as well as across multiple departments to advance the strategic initiatives of the organization.

The Specialist will collaborate and facilitate communication for the execution of field-based projects. The Specialist must have excellent communication skills that will be used to educate growers, shippers and farm-level employees. The Specialist must be fluent in Spanish, live (or be willing to relocate) to the Oxnard strawberry production region and have demonstrated knowledge of agricultural production. This position will be an integral member of the research and grower education teams.

### **Duties / Responsibilities:**

#### **District Outreach:**

- Survey and maintain professional interactions with district growers and industry stakeholders.
- Assess growers' needs and identify resources to address those needs.
- Assist with coordination of meetings on priority topics, often on an ad-hoc basis.
- Connect CSC staff to growers and industry members to promote cross-departmental initiatives.
- Work with CSC staff to monitor relevant issues that affect growers, in particular issues around production practices, regulatory affairs and labor management.

#### **Extension:**

- Facilitate interactive training modules in English and Spanish to industry members in topics such as food safety, supervisor development, production practices and regulatory compliance relevant to strawberry growers, their employees and other industry stakeholders.

- Develop new education programs in technical areas that improve strawberry production practices for growers and their employees.
- Develop didactic materials, resources and guidelines for growers and field level employees.

### **Qualifications**

#### **Required:**

- Professional fluency in oral and written Spanish and English.
- Live within or be willing to relocate to Oxnard strawberry production area.
- BS with 2+ years of extension experience in agricultural production or equivalent experience that provides specialized knowledge relevant to the strawberry industry.
- Strong skills with basic Microsoft programs such as Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Must be a self-starter and have initiative to network with various stakeholders.
- Overnight travel within California.
- Ability to lift equipment and supplies in various training settings including field demonstrations, conference spaces or.
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record.

#### **Desired:**

- Peace Corps service or other cross-cultural immersion, extension, agricultural development experience.
- Strong commitment to working with growers and farm employees.
- MS in a field relevant to agricultural education, production, research or another relevant field.
- Experience developing and delivering bilingual, education programs in agriculture.
- Comfortable with in-person or online group facilitation.
- Technical knowledge of agricultural production, agribusiness, human resources, labor management, labor policy, regulatory affairs or farm-level management are highly desirable.
- Multimedia communication skills to interact with diverse audiences.

**Submission:** E-mail resume and cover letter to [jojia@calstrawberry.org](mailto:jojia@calstrawberry.org) with "Grower Outreach & Extension Specialist" in the subject line.

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