

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

KIND OF WORK

Agricultural or veterinary para-professional/technical work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, performs a variety of para-professional/technical duties in one of the various programs conducted by the Department of Agriculture or the Board of Animal Health such as Support Services/Sample Preparation Unit; Information/Support Services Unit; insect control; nursery inspection; apiary inspection control; seed germination; potato inspection; brucellosis testing or chemical analyses. Performs related work as required.

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

Assists Plant Health Specialists so that a determination in the amount of infestation can be made and clientele can be warned by identifying insect and plant disease specimens and by making insect and plant disease surveys.

Completes various phases of the apiary inspection program so that apiary laws are followed by conducting inspections for disease, destruction of contaminated bees and hives, registration and certification.

Determines what seed germinated so that the percentage of germination can be made by conducting germination tests on seed samples.

Receives and monitors samples so that samples are handled, stored, prepared and disposed efficiently and effectively and assist analysts so that sample analysis can be efficiently and effectively carried out with all possible security by preparing samples in accordance with Quality Assurance and chain of custody protocols using statistically correct methods of subsampling and procedurally correct methods of homogenization.

Cleans and maintains glassware and laboratory equipment and keeps supplies in order so that laboratory work is completed efficiently by sterilizing glassware; maintaining sample preparation areas in clean, orderly and safe condition; and monitoring and maintaining laboratory utilities (i.e., vacuum, compressed air, and reverse osmosis water).

Prepares laboratory samples for brucellosis testing so that the incidence of infection within Minnesota herds can be determined.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Accepted rules governing seed analyses sufficient to perform routine tests.

Insect pest control and eradication methods sufficient to assist in insect and plant disease surveys.

American foulbrood and other contagious bee diseases sufficient to assist in an apiary inspection program.

Basic applied entomology and modern methods of bee culture sufficient to assist in the bee inspection program.

Basic principles of chemistry and biology sufficient to conduct routine laboratory work.

Basic principles of entomology and plant pathology sufficient to assist in insect and plant surveys.

Ability to:

Understand and follow oral and written instructions sufficient to ensure that Quality Assurance and chain of custody protocols are followed supervisor.

Verbal and written communication sufficient to accurately record test results, surveys, inspections, certificates, and analysis reports on schedule in an acceptable manner.

Maintain a positive relationship with clients and other technicians sufficient to provide effective laboratory service.

Est.: 6-11-68
Rev.: 4-20-71, 8-15-88, 10-17-91

T.C.: 8-15-88
Former Title(s): Agricultural
Laboratory Technician