

AGRICULTURAL UNIT SUPERVISOR

KIND OF WORK

First level professional supervisory agricultural chemical (pesticides and fertilizer) regulator and environmental work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, an employee in this class supervises a work unit responsible for programs, relating to the use, handling, storage, distribution, or disposal of agricultural chemicals, and to their effects on the health and welfare of the public and the environment.

The Agricultural Regulatory Unit Supervisor differs from the Agricultural Consultant because an employee in this class applies both specialized professional knowledge of scientific principles and administrative procedures to supervise work unit employees.

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

Plan, organize, assign and direct work activities of unit staff to ensure that compliance, enforcement, training and education, registration, facility permitting, licensing and certification efforts are maximized by using knowledge of applicable agricultural chemical laws, history of violators and human relations skills.

Propose, develop, draft, implement and enforce laws, rules, and regulatory policies in regard to agricultural chemical facilities, registration of agricultural chemicals, investigation and clean-up of agricultural chemical site contamination.

Propose, develop, implement and interpret programs or studies to evaluate agricultural impacts on ground or surface water quality or, other environmental impacts, relating to agricultural chemical use or misuse.

Recommend type of action (administrative, civil, criminal) on specific cases. Design and implement plans and strategies for various non-compliance or site responses by consulting and following applicable laws, rules, and availability of staff resources.

Develop and coordinate technical recommendations based on site or regional assessments conducted by staff, industry consultants or other sources of information to advise and support regulatory decisions on nonpoint or incident issues.

Negotiate and oversee agreements with responsible parties for environmental contamination or regulatory non-compliance to ensure future compliance and facilitate adequate site remediation.

Represent the division or department by serving on task forces, committees, etc., and work with other local, state and federal agencies on problems associated with the use, storage, handling, distribution, disposal, and contamination of the environment by agricultural chemicals.

Request, review and revise plans, performance standards and specifications, and permit applications for agricultural facility operations, chemigation systems, agricultural chemical/environmental protection structures, and site responses to reported or discovered agricultural chemical site contamination.

Develop, review and assess best management plans, as defined by law, and the potential impacts of such plans as part of pesticide and fertilizer management plans for normal use of agricultural chemicals in urban and rural areas of the state.

Prepare materials for and testify at administrative meetings, public hearings, and civil and criminal litigations to support orders, complaints and charges against regulated clientele using case files and other relevant information so that proper, legal, and effective evidence is provided on which sound decisions and judgements can be made.

Ensure that only U.S. EPA and State of Minnesota registered pesticides are used and distributed in the state, and that enforcement action is taken against the manufacturers or other responsible party for violations of required registration. Design and implement registration policies to approve, reject, cancel or specifically regulate certain agricultural chemicals in the state.

Advise the public and clientele on applicable laws, rules, policies and technologies in order to provide a legitimate understanding of the impacts, risks and benefits of agricultural chemicals on man and the environment.

Provide comprehensive training and testing programs to regulated clientele to educate, evaluate, certify and license persons who use, store, handle, distribute, or dispose of agricultural chemicals, or for consultants, contractors and others who investigate and remediate sites contaminated with such chemicals.

Provide and coordinate information dissemination on voluntary best management practices to regulated clientele as well as other state or federal agencies and local units of government to protect human health and water quality.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Basic natural and applied sciences such as soil science, chemistry, geology, hydrology, ecology, biology, botany, agronomy, agricultural engineering, environmental science, environmental education, construction design and procedures, irrigation technology, statistics, physics, public or environmental health, toxicology, entomology, or equivalent sufficient to administer a comprehensive environmental protection, regulatory, or quality program.

State and federal agricultural chemical laws and regulations sufficient to determine compliance.

Effective methods of investigative techniques and legal evidence sufficient to train staff to obtain required information necessary to determine environmental effects and compliance with applicable law.

Ability to:

Direct, monitor, and evaluate the work performed by professional employees.

Interpret, explain, and enforce laws, rules and regulation.

Interpret and evaluate data and technical information relating to agricultural chemical uses and misuses.

Evaluate and explain to others environmental data gathered through personal contact, observation, or by checking records.

Write clear and concise reports which may serve as a basis for administrative or legal or corrective action, policy guidelines, or proposed law or regulation.

Investigate, evaluate and resolve difficult and complex environmental and regulatory problems with available information.

SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS

Occasional proximity to hazardous agricultural chemicals.

Est.: 12/87
Rev.:

TC: 9/89; 8/97
Former Title(s): Pesticide Regulatory Unit
Supervisor
Agricultural Chemical
Unit Supervisor