

## **FARMS OPERATIONS SPECIALIST**

### **JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

This position requires advanced laboring work involving the use of complex equipment, specialized machines and hand tools to accomplish farm operations necessary for the production of food crops and the care and maintenance of farm acreage at Clark County's 78th Street Heritage Farm.

### **CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS**

This is a journey level Farm Operations position. Incumbents are expected to work under limited supervision, broad direction and exercise considerable judgment in day to day operations and maintenance activities. The work involves performing heavy manual labor using specialized equipment, machines, and hand tools. The Farm Operations Specialist may lead and train small groups of temporary workers, volunteers, and offender crews.

### **KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Work with Heritage Farm partners to plan and implement cropping efforts to successfully produce and harvest food crops at the farm and to work with Heritage Farm partners to assist in carrying out farm related educational activities.
- Operate a variety of complex equipment necessary to prepare soil, plant crops and facilitate fertilization, weed control, and irrigation. Examples of equipment operated include: pickup, forklift, front-end loader, herbicide application equipment; and a variety of tractors with attachments such as plow, disk, rototiller, seeders, culti-packer, flail mower, brush hog, hole auger, and irrigation pipe trailers.
- Install and maintain structures such as greenhouses, fences, gates, traffic barriers, signs, sprinkler and drip irrigation layout, maintain records of inspections and repairs as required.
- Apply knowledge of pesticides and additives in identifying and applying pesticides to weeds, crops, turf, trees and plants to control a variety of plant pests and diseases; provide public notices and maintain records as required by law for pesticide applications
- Maintain facilities such as greenhouses, work shop, storage buildings, organizing stored items, changing light bulbs, clearing the facilities of dirt and garbage, and removing graffiti.

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- Work with farm partners to maintain adequate inventory of supplies and equipment required for ongoing activities and special projects, including the purchase of drip line and tubing, lime, seed, fertilizer, irrigation repair parts, herbicides, etc.
- On an as needed basis, instruct and lead offender work crews and/or temporary employees and volunteers. Occasionally, coordinate and supervise volunteer groups such as schools, scouts, business and special interest groups.
- Assist with crowd control at public events such as planting and harvest events, public educational events, etc. Respond to the public's questions, complaints and requests for services in a courteous and helpful manner.
- Perform other duties as may be necessary or assigned to maintain and improve the appearance and quality of the 78th Street Heritage Farm.
- Performs other duties as assigned

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Minimum two years of experience involving farm operations and maintenance; or any other labor intensive work experience that directly involves the skills required to operate farm related machinery, small tools, power tools, vehicles or equipment.
- Must possess a valid motor vehicles operator's license.
- Must possess or be able to obtain a commercial Public Pesticide Applicators License within five months of hire.
- Must be able to successfully pass a comprehensive background check.

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities will be considered.

**Knowledge of:** function and use of tools and equipment identified above; and safety practices required in farm operations. Knowledge of principles and methods of farm operations, irrigation systems, chemical application materials, and horticultural crop production preferred.

**Ability to:** work varied weekly hours depending on seasonal farm needs and activities, perform heavy laboring tasks for extended periods in unfavorable weather conditions such as extreme heat or cold in a safe and efficient manner; work independently with limited supervision, respond to questions, complaints, and request for service from the general public in a courteous manner, understand and follow oral and written instructions and prepare written reports and schedules, instruct alternative workers i.e. offender work crews and volunteers in performing tasks.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT & PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

Incumbents typically work outdoors with exposure to a variety of weather conditions including extreme heat and cold. Work assignments are labor intensive which require the physical ability to stand and/or walk while manipulating a variety of tools to perform assigned tasks. Must have the ability to navigate on uneven terrain, bend, crouch, reach, and lift up to 50 lbs. on a regular basis.

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