The College of Agriculture’s Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences at Auburn University is seeking candidates for the position of Extension Crops Specialist in North Alabama. This position will be housed in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences and will work collaboratively with the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES) and perform functions of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), the primary Extension organization for the land-grant mission of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University. ACES is dedicated to delivering research-based educational programs designed to empower individuals to improve their quality of life and economic well-being. This position will provide Extension programming support for the crop production intense area of North Alabama, with the position being based at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center in Belle Mina. The expected start date is January 1, 2016.

Responsibilities: This is a 12-month non-tenure track position with 50% research and 50% extension responsibilities. The successful candidate will be expected to initiate an Extension program that is focused on producing and delivering research based, unbiased information to crop producers in North Alabama. The Extension program would consist of: development and delivery of printed information for crop producers, conducting training sessions for regional and county Extension agents, diagnostic services of field problems (via on-site and distance), conducting producer meetings, collaboration with Regional Extension Agents on all aspects of Extension programming for localized needs, and participation in Extension Crops Team activities.

Research responsibilities include conducting an applied research program in the area of cropping systems that are pertinent to North Alabama. Crops in which research would be expected to be conducted include, but are not limited to: cotton, soybean, corn, wheat, grain sorghum and canola. Emerging crops for the North Alabama region could be examined as those opportunities occur. Research would focus on agronomic factors of crop production and the interaction of a cropping systems approach. The incumbent will be expected to conduct farm and station-based trial; however, on-station research trials must be coordinated with the AAES Director of Outlying Units and the on-site station director through the electronic submission system for conducting research on outlying experiment stations. In addition, there would also be an expectation of cooperation with pest management specialists to evaluate the impact and interaction of agronomic production with pest management strategies.

Qualifications: Minimum qualifications include an earned undergraduate and M.S. degree from an accredited institution in agronomy, crop science, soil science or closely related field by the expected position start date. The successful candidate will have 1-2 years of experience in crop production beyond their M.S. degree. In addition, candidates must have excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with faculty, students and industry to develop collaborative research and extension programs. The successful candidate must meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the term of employment. Desired qualifications include a Ph. D. in agronomy, crop science, soil science or closely related field and experience in Extension programming.

Application: Applicants must apply for the position electronically through: http://aufacultypositions.peopleadmin.com/postings/1126 and submit the following: 1) cover letter addressing the candidate’s experience pertinent to the responsibilities of the position, 2) current curriculum vita, and 3) copies of all academic transcripts. When prompted during the on-line application process, please provide names, phone numbers and email addresses of three professional references. Only complete application materials will be considered. Active review of applications will begin October 1, 2015, but the search will continue until the position is filled. Questions about the position should be directed to:

Dr. Joyce Ducar
Search Committee Chair
Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
201 Funchess Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849
Email: ducarjt@auburn.edu

The University: Auburn University is a land-grant institution with a student enrollment of more than 24,000. The University provides instruction in approximately 70 academic departments and maintains graduate research and public service programs of a broad scope. The University is located in the city of Auburn in east-central Alabama near the metropolitan areas of Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, and Columbus and Atlanta, Georgia.

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