Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist-Cotton Cropping Systems Agronomist  
Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences

The College of Agriculture's Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences at Auburn University is seeking candidates for the position of Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist-Cotton Cropping Systems Agronomist. 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 Experimental 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 directly support our commitment to educational and applied research programs in the major agronomic crops. The expected start date is January 1, 2016.

Responsibilities: This is a 12-month tenure-track position with 75% extension and 25% research responsibilities. The successful candidate will be viewed as the Statewide Cotton Extension Specialist and will be the point person for developing Cotton Cropping Systems collaborative extension and applied research programs. The successful candidate will also take the lead in organizing state-wide Cotton Extension programming for faculty and ACES Regional Agents with cotton responsibilities. This includes training and providing educational materials to Alabama Cooperative Extension System regional agents. In-service training will include classroom and in-field training sessions. Educational materials expected to be developed include “Timely Information”, fact sheets, bulletins, and web-based information, specifically for the Alabama Crops website and smartphone apps. Delivery of timely information through social media outlets (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) is also expected. The incumbent will also be expected to conduct in-field diagnostics for trouble shooting situations, as well as diagnostics via phone, electronic images, and submitted plant samples. The Extension Cotton Agronomist is expected to fill the role of activities leader for the Cotton Team and other faculty working in cotton production.

Research responsibilities include conducting an applied research program in cotton agronomics and cotton in rotation with other crops. There are several ground breaking technologies that have just been released for cotton producers that will require significant adjustment before producers can implement them in the field. The successful candidate will be responsible for conducting applied research focused on Cotton Cropping Systems that includes, but not limited to, evaluation of new cotton cultivars with new technology traits and their response to planting date, timing of PGR’s, fertility management, herbicide management, irrigation, timing of defoliants and harvest methodology, new technologies in seed treatments. The successful candidate must be able to obtain external financial support (e.g. industry, farmers association, federal) to conduct applied research and deliver accurate information to Alabama cotton producers.

Qualifications: Minimum qualifications include an earned Ph.D. from an accredited institution in agronomy, crop science, soil science, plant physiology, or closely related field by the expected position start date. In addition, the successful candidate must have excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with faculty, students and industry to develop collaborative research and extension programs. Applicants must possess excellent written and interpersonal communication skills. 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 post graduate experience in agronomy, crop science, soil science, plant physiology or closely related field.

Application: Applicants must apply for the position electronically through: http://aufacultypositions.peopleadmin.com/postings/1124 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) a statement of Extension programming philosophy, 4) 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. Brenda Ortiz  
Search Committee Chair  
Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences  
201 Funchess Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849  
Email: bvo0001@auburn.edu

The University: Auburn University is a land-grant institution with a student enrollment of more than 26,000. 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.

Auburn University is an EEO/Vet/Diversity Employer