



State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Janet L. Fisher
Deputy Commissioner

Steve Hannah
Deputy Commissioner

**West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Plant Industries Division**

Position Vacancy

Title: Agricultural Plant Pathologist
Headquarters: Gus R. Douglass Agricultural Center at Guthrie, Charleston, WV
Salary Range: \$34,000 - \$35,500
Closing Date: Open until filled

Nature of Work: An employee in this classification performs professional level work in the planning, development and execution of agricultural plant pathogen detection, survey and control projects on state and privately owned land and performs regulatory and other duties related to agricultural plant pathology as needed.

Examples of Work:

- ◆ Conducts agricultural plant pathogen surveys throughout the state to detect the presence, extent and severity of both endemic and exotic plant pathogens and collates and evaluates the information and data collected.
- ◆ Provides plant pathogen identification and control information and advice and technical assistance on the safe and proper use of pesticides used to control plant pathogens in both urban and rural agricultural environments to landowners, extension agents and other agency personnel.
- ◆ Assists in the conduct of cooperative programs with counterpart federal agencies.
- ◆ Reviews reports and technical literature and interprets research results.
- ◆ Trains subordinate plant pathogen survey and control project personnel.
- ◆ Prepares and presents radio and television programs, prepares written news releases, makes oral presentations to civic groups, schools and garden clubs, prepares informational brochures, and prepares reports for publication in scientific journals when appropriate.
- ◆ Prepares required written reports as needed and maintains records.
- ◆ Attends regional and national plant pathology meetings.
- ◆ Performs related work as required.

Working Conditions: Standing, sitting, driving, walking, operating a computer, public speaking, laboratory work, outdoor work, and exposure to inclement weather.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- ◆ Knowledge of plant pathogens and their relationship to plant and animal life.
- ◆ Ability to plan and conduct a professional plant pathology program that includes field surveys, analysis of the extent and severity of organisms encountered and possible, subsequent control programs.
- ◆ Ability to analyze and incorporate the results of research into operational use and interpret these results for the general public.
- ◆ Ability to train and direct employees to achieve program goals and objectives.
- ◆ Ability to work independently in the field for an extended period.

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- ◆ Ability to prepare and conduct public information programs dealing with plant pathogens and their damage and control.
- ◆ Ability to interact with employees, officials and the public to establish and maintain an effective working relationship.
- ◆ Ability to operate the computer system and software utilized by the Department.
- ◆ Good oral and written communication skills.

Minimum Qualifications:

- ◆ Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a major in plant pathology, biological science, or some other division of biological science, each of which must include at least 12 semester hours, or the equivalent, of plant pathology and mycology courses bearing a title other than research or seminar.
- ◆ Two years of experience in related professional level plant pathology work.
- ◆ Experience Substitution: Successful completion of a Master of Science Degree in one of the above fields. Individuals with a M.S. Degree in biological science, or some other division of biological science, must have at least 18 semester hours, or the equivalent, of plant pathology and mycology courses bearing a title other than research or seminar.

For an application contact:

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 West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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For more information contact:

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Return application and resume to Melea Brown at the above address. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture is an Equal Employment Opportunity provider and employer.