

J&W Walker Farms and Gold Dust Potato Processors, Inc. are a diverse farming and shipping operation located in the beautiful Klamath Basin of southern Oregon and northern California. Our primary endeavor is supplying domestic and international clients with the highest quality chipping potatoes on the market at competitive prices. Farming operations also include production of wheat, barley and alfalfa, both conventional and organic. Total acreage includes 2200 acres of potatoes and nearly 8000 in rotational crops. We currently have need of a full-time agronomist to lead agronomy operations and assist farm and packing-shed management.

OVERVIEW:

J&W Walker Farms and Gold Dust Potato are searching for a candidate to fill the role of Agronomist at its headquarters in Malin, Oregon. The agronomist will work with farm owners and personnel to manage and research agronomic issues and technical matters related to the growing, marketing, and shipping of chipping potatoes. Some additional involvement in the grain and alfalfa production also needed. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience in the agronomy and management of potato production.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop fertility strategy for potatoes, wheat and alfalfa based on soils, soil tests, and crop rotation. Improve strategies for control of nematode and other soil borne pests. Assure that strategies fit with company budget.
- Oversee selection, management, and quality assurance of seed potatoes and cutting operations. Assist in managing crews during seed cutting and handling. Planting responsibilities include oversight of quality assurance personnel, site selection of different varieties, and in-furrow fertilizer and chemical determinations.
- Assist and advise management on production practices during the growing season. Scout fields weekly during growing season to assist management in irrigation, fertility, and pest control decisions. Combine observations with soil and petiole tests to manage fertility. Design, implement and monitor fertility and variety studies. Design and assist implementation of pest control measures. Agronomist will combine observations and experience with different fields and varieties to make determinations about best management practices of newer varieties.
- Lead quality control efforts and tasks during harvest and early storage of potato crop. Agronomist will oversee quality assurance personnel in monitoring and recording bruise-free and other quality parameters. Agronomist will also assist and advise on operation and setup of unloading machinery to reduce tuber damage. Selection of post-harvest chemicals. General oversight and decision making for climate controls of potato storage.
- Attend to the agronomic questions of the management and clients during the winter months. Advise on shipping schedules of potato lots and provide clients with agronomic data upon request. Oversee collection and processing of laboratory samples for reducing sugars.

REQUIREMENTS:

- B.S. (M.S. preferred) which could be from Agronomy, Horticulture, Crop Science, or other relevant majors.
- Must have a desire to work in a fast paced environment and collaborate with other team members to manage multiple priorities at once.
- Desire to work hands on in every stage of potato production and see the advancement of that production through scientific research and application of the latest approaches and technologies.
- Ability to communicate effectively and efficiently with management and other team members.
- Competent use of Microsoft Office Suite.
- Spanish skills preferred
- Potato experience preferred
- Possess or be able to obtain California and Oregon pesticide licenses

HOW TO APPLY

Send resume to hr-office@golddustfarms.com. J&W Walker Farms is looking to fill this position immediately so all resumes will be considered promptly.