

Agronomist – Farming Technology Corporation

For a new and upcoming company that is growing fast...

Be able to design, plant, and perform data collection, data analysis, and reporting of results for field research trials. As necessary obtain, train, and manage labor to establish and harvest these trials. Results of the experiments are to be presented as Power Point presentations at managerial meetings as well as in comprehensive written reports that include statistical analysis. Research trials will include those intended to evaluate agrichemicals, to evaluate new potato varieties, to evaluate our commercial planting methodology, and to address significant physiological and disease problems in the field and in storage.

When necessary, identify potential seed and field insect and disease problems and prepare samples for outside analysis. When possible provide pertinent information to plant pathology laboratories and explain test results and surrounding issues to company management.

Perform field observation and data collection to develop and improve predictive models of yield and size distribution performed by outside consultants.

Manage and train personnel in English and Spanish (up to 18 individuals at a time)

To conduct the sampling required for our yield model program and for yield sampling

To optimize timing of vine desiccation. This includes training personnel to collect detailed data, to identify common diseases and estimate their severity, and to conduct instrumented testing such as testing for tuber specific gravity and texture analysis. It may be necessary to train some personnel in basic data entry.

Be capable of analyzing yield and sample data across multiple years to develop useful summaries that can help guide decisions on variety selection, field selection, and relative importance of specific agronomic problems.

Be able to obtain, read, and summarize peer-reviewed literature and disseminate that information to company management.

Be able to obtain a private pesticide applicators license and assist with formulation, mixing, and application of fertilizer or pest control products when required.

Assist in communicating government safety and health information into topic centered weekly safety meetings as 20-30 minute talks each week to approximately 40 coworkers for the farm. The talks are usually based on a combination of the government/university information as well as information about hazards and issues specific to our farming operation.

Be able to act as a “liaison” between local extension researchers, chemical company representatives, and other organizations and the commercial farming operation. Ensure that cooperative trials are allocated field space, labor, and data collection assistance when necessary, and work with researchers to schedule planting, treatment, and harvest dates.

Participate in farm and storage planning and evaluation meetings. Maintain confidentiality of internal research findings, company financial information, specific information about company farming practices, and personnel information.

Develop and share ideas for addressing problems and challenges that limit the success of the farming and storage operations.

This is for a very large company based in Colorado and Texas, and has potential for someone moving into the ranks of potatoes to get some real on-the-ground training and work experience.

San Luis Valley, Colorado

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