The agent will be responsible for planning, developing, implementing and evaluating programs in livestock production and management, forages and pastures, plant science, and farm management with the assistance of the program advisory committee. Agent will also be expected to serve as a resource person and work cooperatively with producer groups, associations, state and local governmental and regulatory agencies in topic areas relevant to the livestock industry. In addition to the commercial livestock producers this agent provides programming for small farms and ranchette owners. This position also has a large youth component, working in the above areas in support of 4-H/youth programs in cooperation with the county 4-H program coordinator.

This agent will be expected to work with an advisory committee to help develop, implement and evaluate an educational program. Methods will include, but not be limited to, field demonstrations, field days, grower meetings and tours, conferences and presentations through various delivery techniques including community teaching, electronic web-based communications, facilitation and consensus building, and finding the unique local balance of quality of life.

The incumbent will be expected to work with agencies/organizations to acquire grants (SHARE/in-kind), assist/lead cooperative/interdisciplinary projects, provide service to schools, develop creative works (presentations, posters, website development, etc), develop technical materials that are user friendly, and participate in professional societies. The agent will be expected to attain promotion and permanent status per university faulty guidelines.

A Bachelor’s degree is required with a Master’s degree preferred. Degree should be earned in animal science, agriculture, agricultural or extension education, farm management, plant science or a closely related field with a strong emphasis in animal science or farm management. The successful candidate should have a strong commitment to education. The agent will follow all Extension policies, program development and reporting. Additional duties may be required at the discretion of the County Extension Director.

The successful candidate must have excellent communication, facilitation, and computer skills and must pass county background and drug tests as required. Occasional travel will be required.

Polk County is in west-central Florida with a population of over 525,000. It encompasses 2,010 square miles and is a rapidly urbanizing county but still maintains a very strong agricultural industry. In 2004 the total beef cattle and calf inventory was 100,000 head, ranking 4th in the state.
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EXTENSION PROGRAMMING IN AGRICULTURE, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, SEA GRANT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND 4-H YOUTH, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS/UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.