POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT PS# 00014346

Title: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (CITRUS HORTICULTURE)

Location: INDIAN RIVER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS)
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
FT. PIERCE, FLORIDA

Salary: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Position Open to: REVIEW OF APPLICATION MATERIALS WILL BEGIN ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2007, AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL A SUITABLE APPLICANT IS IDENTIFIED.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The University of Florida, Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC) invites applicants for a 12-month, tenure track-appointment (70% extension, 30% research), with tenure accruing in the Horticultural Sciences Department. Extension responsibilities for this position include all facets of citrus management and production, from grove establishment through harvest, with emphasis on fresh fruit production. Specific responsibilities include developing recommendations and programs to accomplish positive changes, and assisting county extension faculty in their citrus production-related extension programs. This extension specialist must be an active leader in the appropriate state major program(s) and develop an effective advisory committee to insure appropriate program focus. The incumbent will function as a member of the statewide horticultural extension team with program emphasis in the Indian River area including St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, Okeechobee, and Brevard Counties.

The research portion of this assignment should facilitate the needs of citrus production on the flatwood soils in the Indian River area with emphasis on fruit quality (especially grapefruit), evaluation of scion and rootstock genotypes, tree spacing, tree size management, nutrition, and management of diseases and pests. The faculty member is expected to interact closely with county extension agents and all disciplines at the Center, which includes agribusiness, soil and water science, environmental toxicology, plant virology, entomology, crop physiology, genetics/plant breeding, and postharvest physiology and handling. Likewise, the incumbent is expected to interact with scientists at other UF/IFAS centers, USDA/ARS facilities, campus departments, and other relevant state agencies. As a member of the Horticultural Sciences Department, the faculty member is expected to participate in graduate education. This position is budgeted, promoted, and evaluated through the Horticultural Sciences Department and IRREC.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS: A Ph.D. in horticulture, plant physiology, or a closely related field is required. Extension education and/or production experience of horticultural crops is desirable. Excellent verbal and written communication skills with growers, research and extension faculty, grower organizations, and other government agencies are essential. The candidate will be evaluated for leadership skills as well as scientific ability.
OTHER INFORMATION: The Indian River Research and Education Center is a unit of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida, and is located on a 700-acre site west of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County. Fort Pierce is located on the east coast of Florida, 50 miles north of West Palm Beach. The internationally recognized research center is located in a major agricultural region in which nurseries, citrus, beef cattle, and vegetables are major industries. Presently there are approximately 140,000 acres of citrus produced in the six county Indian River region. The IRREC is an interdisciplinary unit of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the Florida Extension Service and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, all of which are administered by IFAS to serve the land grant mission.

HOW TO APPLY: Review of application materials will begin on 4 September 2007, and will continue until a suitable applicant is identified. Applicants must submit the following items: formal letter of application including a description of experience and qualifications related to this position, complete biographical résumé, list of publications, transcripts, and have three (3) individuals send letters of reference regarding this candidate’s qualifications for the position to Dr. Mark A. Ritenour, Chair, Search and Screen Committee, University of Florida, IFAS, IRREC, 2199 South Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945-3138. Applicants are encouraged to fill out Applicant Data Card in an effort to collect the demographics of applicant pools. Applicant Data Card can be accessed on the web at http://www.hr.ufl.edu/job/datacard.htm. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. If accommodations are needed please call 772-468-3922 or TDD 1-800-955-8771. AA/EAA/EOE.

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SEND APPLICATIONS TO:
Dr. Mark A. Ritenour, Chair
Search and Screen Committee
Indian River Research and Education Center
2199 South Rock Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945-3138
Phone: 772-468-3922  Fax: 772-468-5668
ritenour@ufl.edu

Additional information about the center is available at http://www.irrec.ifas.ufl.edu.

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity, equal access, employer. The “government in the sunshine” laws of Florida require that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application/nomination and reference, excerpt transcripts, be available for public inspection.