

***Putting knowledge to work with the people of Maine***

**Title:** Extension Crops Entomology Educator

**Department:** Cooperative Extension (Aroostook County)

**Rank:** Assistant Extension Professor

**Continuing Contract (Tenure) Track**: Yes

**Reports to:** Program Administrator

**Position Type**: Regular, Full-time

**Purpose:** This position with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension has a primary responsibility to conduct educational programming related to the management of insect and other pests that limit potato and rotational crop production in Maine. A secondary responsibility is to conduct applied research related to pest management that supports the educational program. Collaboration is required with Extension faculty, as well as with faculty in the School of Biology and Ecology, the School of Economics, and other University of Maine units relative to potato and rotational crops research.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

* Involves partners, clients, and citizens in defining priority program needs and opportunities for collaboration to enhance program impact and resource acquisition. This would include but not be limited to the Maine Potato Board and the Sustainable Potato Production Systems program leadership team.
* Conducts an educational program that supports the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s Plan of Work and stresses the use of best

management practices (BMPs) in an integrated pest management (IPM) program for potatoes and rotation crops.

* Improves the profitability and efficiency of potato production, while minimizing the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and to develop natural production practices when applicable.
* Conducts grower meetings, pesticide training and re-certification sessions, and field days to introduce and reinforce the use of BMPs, IPM, and sound business management principles.
* Coordinates the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Potato Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program in Aroostook County.
* Provides information management through newsletters and fact sheets via blogs, Internet publications, telephone, email and correspondence, and by conducting individual field visits as appropriate.
* Conducts research related to potato cropping systems in Maine, particularly on the management of insects and other pests that limit potato production and reports results in peer-reviewed journals and other outlets.
* Cooperates with county staff to provide support for potato initiatives and provides insect identification as requested by the Pest Management staff and County faculty
* Consults with the Maine Potato Board on potato related matters and also cooperates with county (Soil and Water Conservation Districts), state (Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, the Board of Pesticides Control) and federal agencies (United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Environmental Protection Agency) on potato and rotation crop related matters. Cooperates with Canadian counterparts to facilitate the sharing of knowledge of potato research
* Designs and implements a Plan-of-Work that aligns with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension mission and addresses high priority issues in the areas of agriculture focusing on potato production, potato rotation crops, integrated pest management and related subjects.
* Conducts and disseminates the results of applied research.
* Provides timely and accurate information in response to public requests for information.
* Develops and sustains a program of professional development.
* Secures external grants and contracts for research and educational programming.
* Reports program impacts on Plugged-In and other venues upon request
* Develops and sustains a professional development plan in support of one’s professional, organizational and plan of work priorities
* Develops, conducts, and evaluates educational programs, including workshops, short courses, fact sheets, newsletters, and press releases, both independently and as part of teams.
* Areas of programming, and example programs, include but are not limited to: potato production, integrated pest management, potato rotation crop production, pesticide use and safety, and entomology.
* Makes special effort to seek, involve and serve under-served and under- represented clients.
* Ensures compliance with civil rights, affirmative action and equal opportunity requirements.
* Develops and maintains professional relationships that reflect courtesy, civility, and mutual respect
* Builds productive relationships with internal and external constituencies
* Utilizes coaching and mentoring methods which provide an environment that is anticipatory, supportive, and encourages constructive feedback on performance
* Commits to organizational improvement by identifying opportunities to improve and recommending possible alternatives for a situation
* Serves as supervisor for a clerical staff position and others who may assist with research.

**Secondary Functions:**

* Participates in Extension staff meetings as appropriate
* Participates in organizational program meetings to support program development that affects the potato and other related crop programs
* Supervises professional, classified, or student staff as necessary, including conducting or participating in required performance evaluations
* Recruits, orients, trains, and supervises volunteers as needed
* Contributes skills and insights for effective office management in collaboration with co-workers
* Serves on faculty committees to address personnel actions such as, Peer Committees, Promotion Review Committee, Faculty Committee for Peer Responsibility, and ad hoc task forces
* Performs other reasonably related duties as assigned

**Knowledge & Skill Qualifications**

**This position requires:**

* Master’s Degree in entomology or closely-related field
* Experience in Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
* Demonstrated skill in developing and delivering educational programs
* Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills
* Demonstrated ability to conduct applied research in response to agricultural industry needs
* Demonstrated success in working collaboratively with other agencies and organizations, including private industry
* Potato or closely related crop production experience
* Computer and mobile device proficiency
* Ability to work independently and as part of a team
* Ability to be self-motivated and directed
* Travel in-state, normally requiring a valid Maine driver’s license, is required with mileage reimbursement at the contract rate and some limited national or international travel
* Ability to secure a Maine Pesticide Applicator’s license within the first 6 months of employment

**This position prefers:**

* Knowledge of Cooperative Extension, the Land Grant University, the Maine potato industry and agriculture in the state of Maine
* Extension or outreach education experience
* Demonstrated success in obtaining research funding
* Experience and skills in supervising others
* Experience seeking participation from and working with diverse audiences

**Work Environment**

The Crops Entomology Educator is expected to:

* Work from the Extension office located in Presque Isle, Maine with some state-wide responsibilities
* Perform work responsibilities that will occasionally include some evening and weekend commitments
* Work with colleagues and appropriate agencies to create an annual plan of work that addresses the changing issues and needs of the potato industry

Presque Isle is located in central Aroostook County in northern Maine. Presque Isle offers easy access to some of the most beautiful year-round recreation sites in the nation.

**Work Schedule**

* University of Maine Cooperative Extension office hours are weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Extension Crops Entomology Educator will work a flexible schedule to meet the requirements of the position that may involve work beyond regular office hours.
* The Extension Crops Entomology Educator position is a regular full time position.

Appropriate background checks are required.

All UMS employees are required to comply with applicable policies and procedures, as well as to complete applicable workplace related screenings, and required employee trainings, such as Information Security, Safety Training, Workplace Violence, and Sexual Harassment.

Materials must be submitted via "Apply for Position".  Each candidate will need to create a profile and application, upload a letter of intent addressing the specific job requirements, updated curriculum vitae, and three (3) current professional references (names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and relationship to applicant) that may be contacted.  **Incomplete application materials cannot be considered.  Review of applications will begin February 17, 2020 and will continue until the position is filled.**

***The University of Maine is an EEO/AA Employer.  All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.***