



West Virginia Department of Agriculture

1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-3550

Walt Helmick
Commissioner

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Chemist I (Pesticide Residue Chemist), Regulatory and Environmental Affairs Division

Salary: Commensurate with Experience

Headquarters: Guthrie Agricultural Center

Send WVDA Application & Resume to: Anne Oravec, Executive Assistant
Administrative Services Division
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170
aoravec@wvda.us
304-558-2221 (Phone)
304-558-2222(Fax)

Closing Date: Until Filled (Two Positions)

Nature of Work: An employee in this position performs professional work by performing analyses of commercial pesticide products, pesticide use dilutions and residues in groundwater samples. Pesticide residue analyses are performed on various equipment such as the HPLC, GC/MS, and LC/MS/MS. The employee performs pesticide enforcement grant-related work in the development and maintenance of a quality assurance program for pesticide laboratories.

Examples of Work:

- Maintains quality assurance measures in relation to the pesticide enforcement grant required for laboratories.
- Determines the type and extent of testing required to ascertain the quality of samples submitted for analyses, guided by the principles and techniques of analytical chemistry and

by the methods devised by professional and testing organizations in developing the necessary laboratory procedures.

- Analyzes and interprets test results in order to assist in the administration of laws, regulations or specifications relating to the pesticide formulations or residues found.
- Reports questionable identifications or finds on work to a supervisor.
- Attends meetings including overnight travel.
- Utilizes a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for data entry and other computer operations.
- Performs related work as required, such as assisting other division chemists as needed.
- Prepares official reports and may be called upon to testify before the court or the Commissioner.
- Perform related and other duties as assigned

Working Conditions:

- Ability to sit, stand, and/or walk for extended periods of time; frequently bend, squat, reach above shoulder level, push, pull and handle objects and capable of lifting up to 50 pounds.
- Employment may require working with pathogenic microorganisms, hazardous chemicals such as disinfectants, acids, bases, mutagens, teratogens, and solvents; hot liquids, steam, and hot solid surfaces capable of burns; and warm, humid conditions can be found in the laboratory environment. Personal protective equipment is supplied to laboratory staff.
- Some jobs require employees to be exposed to unpleasant odors.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of the principles, practices and procedures of pesticide formulation and residue chemistry.
- Skill in the use of computer-controlled laboratory equipment such as gas chromatograph, mass spectrometer, liquid chromatograph, electron capture detectors and other detectors commonly used in pesticide analysis.
- Ability to prepare analytical reports and to organize and present scientific information in a clear and concise manner.
- Ability to do original research and devise new methods of testing for pesticide formulation and residue levels.
- Knowledge of laboratory quality control procedures and appropriate statistical methods.
- Ability to use and care for complex laboratory instruments.
- Ability to perform various tests, adapt techniques as required, and to perform complex computations.
- Ability to prepare scientifically accurate and thorough reports.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.
- Knowledge in the procedures involving the use and handling of hazardous chemicals.

Minimum Qualifications:

- ♦ Graduation from an accredited 4-year college or university with a major in chemistry.
- ♦ One year of employment experience in performing laboratory technical work preferably related to pesticide analyses.

Substitution: May substitute one year of research experience in performing laboratory technical work preferably related to pesticide analyses.

Additional Requirements:

Dependable transportation required and proof of insurance.

Pre-employment drug and alcohol testing.

Pre-employment law enforcement background investigation, including DMV records.

Valid driver's license required.

Must maintain a positive image of the Commissioner, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and the State.

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