



Position: Agricultural Research Coordinator

Company: At Stony Creek Colors, a growing chemical manufacturer based in Springfield, TN, we deliver clean and safe plant-based colorants to the textile industry worldwide, helping fashion brands meet their goal of reducing hazardous chemical use while bringing alternative crops to American farmers.

Job Description:

Stony Creek Colors seeks an experienced, organized researcher who shares our passion for supporting American farmers through the development and promotion of new alternative cash crops. A driven individual is needed to join a cross functional team developing the most viable model for production of plant based indigo crop in the Southeast US. The mission of the research farm coordinator is to develop successful indigo crop production improvements that will ultimately allow our new crops to take a leading role in Tennessee agriculture, ensuring consistent, high quality crop research and production from the company's indigo research farm and with our partner contract farmers in Northern Middle Tennessee.

The research farm coordinator position is hands-on in crop production, managing research farm operations at the company's two acre research farm, regular record keeping and crop scouting, scheduling and coordinating lab production and harvesting to move agricultural research forward. This role will include some basic laboratory work and use of excel and other data management systems. The coordinator will engage with new and existing contract farmers through progress monitoring, recruitment, training, and on-farm research. The coordinator will work with company leadership on special project development to include field days, research grant writing and execution, research into new methods of crop production, and agricultural management.

Stony Creek Colors is a nationally recognized innovator and leader in growing, processing and marketing the next generation of sustainable bio-based chemicals in a way that benefits American farmers. A team player committed to professional development and seeking to grow a career with a multifaceted organization are welcome to apply!

Job Duties. Duties shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Manage 2 acre research farm, including production of indigo crops from transplant through harvesting at Stony Creek Colors' research farm. Work with agricultural manager to ensure on-time production throughout season.
2. Work with technology team to layout research farm and execute on agricultural research agenda.
3. Hand harvesting of small quantities of plants (typically 20-80 plants/day) from research farm and partner farmers on daily basis throughout season to move research goals forward and assist laboratory team in processing fresh plant biomass.
4. Ensure successful crop production activities such as planting, weed management and harvesting with contract farmers, growing to 1000 acres under contract within two years.
5. Ensure sufficient transplants produced for research and contract farmers, serve as liaison with greenhouses and seed production partners.
6. Maintain crop production records to ensure replicability and consistency among batches. Record and maintain information such as production, management practices and labor; Utilize computer databases, programs and spreadsheets for efficiency.

7. Coordinate sustainable agriculture special projects including next generation research related to indigo crop nitrogen fixation, beneficial insect habitat, carbon sequestration, no-till crop production methods, and nematode suppression research.
8. Work with technology development manager to analyze individual indigo plants to isolate for plant breeding. Learn indigo specific plant breeding techniques and assist research partners in development of improved varieties.
9. Remain current with new technology in seed production conditioning, crop planting and production methodologies; Incorporate, as appropriate, in managed farm and offer improvement suggestions to management.

During the off-season, coordinator will assist in some winter duties at farm and greenhouse, including overseeing seed harvest and cleaning. However the role will have predominately desk work from November - February; following the 2017 growing season this coordinator will be responsible for recruitment and management of to farmers to grow the company's crop production to over 1000 acres while designing the next year's research agenda.

Other General Requirements:

Ensure safe and proper work environment including safe use of farm machinery and sharp blades for harvesting of crop. Maintain an accurate and legible farm notebook and transcribe data to computer database on weekly basis. Maintain adequate stocks of necessary agricultural supplies. Travel to farms and greenhouses within three county region is required.

Competencies: Practical hands on problem-solver, excellent organizational skills with attention to detail, self-motivated and proactive leadership on both design and implementation of research projects, ability to follow through with plan yet flexible to adapt to changing needs, ability to work on multiple priorities at one time, high standards for consistency and quality.

Minimum Qualifications: Prefer candidate with a bachelor's degree or associate degree in agriculture-related field. Candidate with considerable relevant work experience in lieu of formal education or coursework combined with practical experience encouraged to apply. Prefer 3+ years of farm experience in mid-scale farm production or in agricultural R&D environment using progressive row crop farming techniques. Must have Microsoft Office competencies. Must be personable and organized, with occasional need to lead a farm crew, as well as communicating crop projections, research support needs, and coordinating with other employees.

Compensation: SCC's Agricultural Research Coordinator position is a full-time, year round position with benefits including health care. Compensation commensurate with experience.

To Apply: Please submit cover letter and résumé to jobs@stonycreekcolors.com with "Agricultural Research Coordinator" in the subject line. This is a full-time position to be filled as soon as possible, no later than March 2017 and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. This job will be based between SCC's laboratory and processing facility in Goodlettsville, TN and Springfield, TN. SCC is a growing company with a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment. We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive work environment, with opportunities for growth and professional development.

Please help us circulate this position: <http://stonycreekcolors.com/pages/careers>