



Agronomist

SUMMARY

CSS Farms is seeking applicants for an Agronomist at our Dalhart, Texas farm. This will be a unique position with significant autonomy and responsibility for managing the agronomy and supporting the production of over 3,000 acres of chip potatoes.

CSS Farms is a multi-state farming operation that incorporates state-of-the-art processes and technology with a modern fleet of equipment and the latest management practices. CSS is one of Frito-Lay's largest suppliers of chip potatoes in North America. The company farms over 10,000 acres across eight operations in five states – NE, TX, FL, CA, and CO. The Dalhart farm is the company's largest operation.

RELATIONSHIPS

The Agronomist will report directly to the Dalhart General Manager and will work closely with other members of the Dalhart and corporate management teams.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES

1. The Agronomist's primary responsibility will be to support the commercial chip potato production, including:
 - Soil sampling and fertilizer recommendations
 - Development and execution of pest management strategies
 - Monitor soil moisture and schedule irrigations
 - Scout fields on a weekly basis and recommend necessary adjustments to management plans

2. Provide quality control oversight on key farm operations, especially the following:
 - Seed handling and cutting
 - Planter spacing accuracy
 - Irrigation system application uniformity
 - Chemical application (coverage and timing)
 - Plant tissue and soil sampling during the growing season for fertility management
 - Test digs to estimate yields and monitor quality
 - Monitoring of bruise-free handling during harvest
 - Plant maturity evaluations, including sugar testing in the field and in storage

3. Develop and conduct R&D experiments to provide insight on key production issues, including:
 - Psyllid, zebra chip, and other disease control
 - New variety evaluation
 - Variety specific agronomy (seed spacing, fertility, etc.)
 - Use of VRT to optimize cost per cwt and quality
 - Maximize water-use and fertilizer-use efficiency
 - Feasibility of other value added crops (e.g. sweet potatoes, etc.)

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelors of Science degree in agronomy or related field (Masters degree preferred)
- Experience in irrigated crop production preferred
- Proficient in the use of Windows based computer programs (Excel, Access, PowerPoint) and a general aptitude with software systems, including statistical analysis software
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including ability to train and work with operational personnel on the farm
- Superior organizational and project management skills
- Experience in leading and managing people
- Valid Texas driver's license and eligibility for vehicle insurance required

- Bilingual English/Spanish preferred
- Candidates must be eligible to work in the U.S. to be considered for this position.

POTENTIAL FOR ADVANCEMENT

The Agronomist will gain exposure to all facets of the company's chip potato business and will have the potential for career advancement for the following positions located at many of the company's locations :

- Area Manager
- Farm Manager
- Director of Agronomy for CSS Farms

Salary will be commensurate with experience and skills. CSS Farms has a complete fringe benefits package, including health insurance, company matched 401(k), and profit sharing.

Please email your resume to: Jamie Lockhart at jamie.lockhart@cssfarms.com with "TX- Agronomist" in the subject line.