

## FARM MANAGER FOR VIRGINIA FOUNDATION SEED PROGRAM

The Virginia Crop Improvement Association, Inc. (VCIA) is seeking a Farm Manager for the VCIA Foundation Seed Farm located in Mt Holly VA. The farm is a 590 acre working farm and seed cleaning/treatment facility. The farm has 430 tillable acres with 210 under irrigation and currently rents an additional 70 acres. The Farm Manager is responsible for all aspects of production, planning, budgeting, purchasing and sales; maintenance of equipment and facilities and other day to day operations of the farm and seed treatment facility. The farm currently produces dry land and irrigated corn, soybeans and small grains in commercial and small plots, including research and variety trials, growouts and seed increases in cooperation with Virginia Tech small grain and soybean breeders, researchers and commercial seed companies.

The Virginia Crop Improvement Association, Inc. is a non-profit educational and service organization officially recognized as the seed certifying agency in Virginia for maintaining varietal identity and mechanical purity of improved crops. The Foundation Seed Farm responsibility is to provide services to the seed industry. These services include release and distribution of new crop varieties from Virginia Tech and others and maintenance of seed stocks for commercial seed companies. This position also oversees the contract production of Foundation peanut seed.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise 4 full-time staff and multiple part-time workers.
- Provide programmatic and fiscal leadership for the Foundation Seed Stock Division.
- Assist plant breeders with the characterization of new producers, develop documents to meet Federal Seed Act requirements and oversee the cleaning of new varieties for commercialization.
- Collaborate with the Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties to release new cultivars.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree completed by date of hire;
- At least 3 years of experience in agronomics, farm management or plant variety development;
- Crop and seed production experience;
- Commercial Pesticide Applicators License;
- Manage competing research seed production and feedstock production needs of multiple customers;
- Create and negotiate contracts with landlords, seed producers, genetics providers, and vendors;
- Excellent customer service skills;

- Valid driver's license or ability to obtain one within the first 30 days of employment.
- Lifting requirements up to 60 lbs.
- Job includes climbing and other physical activities and willingness to travel occasionally.
- Must have basic computer skills and oral and written communication skills.

#### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Master's degree in Ag-Business and/or Agronomy.
- Experience with field records and education/technological transfer mechanisms
- Experience in modern crop production practices; agricultural production equipment; seed handling; and cleaning equipment and maintenance of farm equipment
- Experience with seed certification laws, standards and procedures necessary for producing limited generation seed such as Breeder and Foundation classes
- Experience in limited generation seed production and/or commercial seed production and sales Experience developing and managing budgets, financial records and inventories
- Experience communicating with individuals and groups, both verbally and through written reports

The starting salary for this position will be commensurate with education and experience. Benefits include health and dental insurance and retirement plan. Housing can be provided. Applicants should send a complete resume with three references to Virginia Crop Improvement Association, c/o, Thomas Hardiman, 9225 Atlee Branch Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23116, email: [hardiman@vt.edu](mailto:hardiman@vt.edu), 804-746-4884, for inquiries. Closing date for this position is September 6, 2024.