Assistant Professor and Urban Food Systems Horticulturalist  
Department of Horticulture and Crop Science  
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences  
The Ohio State University

The Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University is seeking applications for the position of Assistant Professor and Urban Food Systems Horticulturalist. This is a 9-month tenure-track position with a 20% teaching, 30% research, and 50% extension appointment. The position will be located on the Columbus or Wooster Campus of The Ohio State University.

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities

This position aims to advance the science and practice of urban food systems horticulture as involving farmers, non-profit organizations, schools and centers, and similar entities. The successful candidate is expected to establish a program that: (a) is integrated, externally funded, and nationally recognized and (b) yields a greater understanding of and the capacity to positively influence horticultural food production systems in urban and urbanizing environments and communities in the Midwest-Great Lakes region. These systems are tasked with enhancing food security, entrepreneurship, and responses to and mitigation of climate change, socioeconomic, and other forces. Leveraging their expertise, collegiality, and stakeholder-focused approach, the successful candidate will demonstrate leadership in and support collaborative efforts strengthening horticultural food production systems scaled for and enhancing quality of life in urban environments and communities. Their integrated efforts will meet the needs of stakeholders in the targeted communities. Programmatic goals within this process could include: 1) production system diversification (including through incorporating perennial crops), 2) evaluation of new cropping system designs expressing sustainable intensification principles; 3) production approaches and best management practices suitable for urban farms and improving crop production system efficiency, economic opportunity, and climate change resilience; 4) plant physiological responses to urban environmental stresses; and 5) and other relevant programs targeted to urban horticultural farms and their communities - the possibilities are broad. The successful candidate will also contribute to the Department’s teaching program by leading one undergraduate or graduate course per year that contributes to the core curriculum or is in the candidate’s area of expertise. This process should serve as an opportunity to bring research and extension to the educational experience of Ohio State students. Advising and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students is also expected. Overall, activities and outputs of the Urban Food Systems Horticulturalist will be commensurate with their 30% research appointment, support their 50% Extension appointment, and enrich and be enriched by their 20% teaching appointment.

Qualifications

The minimum qualification for this position is an earned Ph.D. in horticulture or plant science, agronomy or soil science, sustainable agriculture, agroecology, or discipline applicable to the duties and responsibilities outlined above. Demonstrated potential to exhibit leadership and partnership in applied research integrated with extension and directed to strengthening horticultural production systems at the core of urban food systems is essential. Preference will be given to candidates familiar with drivers of the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of urban, space-intensive production systems and potential contributions of those systems to individual and community well-being and resilience, including within the context of adaptation to climate change and economic-market forces and provision of agroecosystem services. Candidates capable of bridging horticultural food production and other science also strengthening urban food systems and communities are also...
desirable. Candidates familiar with tactics helping stakeholders mitigate and adapt to climate change while meeting additional metrics are encouraged to apply. Teaching or extension-outreach experience, grant-writing skills, and managerial expertise are also desirable.

Application Instructions

Review of applications will begin immediately after the application closing date (April 1, 2022) and will continue until the position is filled. Complete applications should include the following: 1) a cover letter describing areas of expertise, alignment with qualifications, and vision for the position; 2) a statement of research interests (2 pages maximum); 3) a statement of philosophy and approach to extension and teaching and their integration with research (2 pages maximum); 4) a complete curriculum vitae; 5) names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses, of three references; and 6) a statement of philosophy and approach to building a diverse, inclusive and welcoming environment for faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders (2 pages maximum). The diversity statement may describe the candidate’s past or current contributions and activities to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and/or a vision for promoting these ideals as a researcher-educator in the conduct of an academic career. Official application will be made by uploading all materials listed above via Workday at ____ using search code _____. Also, a single hard- or PDF-copy containing all application materials identical to those uploaded via Workday should be sent to Meredith Luikart (contact information below).

For further information and application instructions please see: https://hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/applicant-faq.pdf

In addition to uploading via Workday, please send application materials electronically (1 file in PDF format) or by mail to:

Ms. Meredith Luikart
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Dept. Horticulture and Crop Science
The Ohio State University
2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210
Telephone: 614-688-5319
Fax: 614-292-7162
Email: luikart.6@osu.edu
Please direct questions to:

Dr. Matthew D. Kleinhenz  
Chair of the Search Committee  
Professor, Extension Specialist (Vegetable Production Systems)  
Dept. Horticulture and Crop Science  
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About The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University is committed to building a diverse faculty and staff for employment and promotion to ensure the highest quality workforce, to reflect human diversity, and to improve opportunities for minorities and women. The university embraces human diversity and is committed to equal employment opportunity, affirmative action and eliminating discrimination. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status—defined as age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status—is prohibited.

The Department welcomes applications from individuals who may have had nontraditional career paths or who may have taken time off for family reasons (e.g., children, caring for disabled or elderly family), or who have achieved excellence in careers outside of academia (e.g., in professional or industry service). The Department is committed to supporting the work-life balance of its faculty, staff, and students. The Ohio State University is responsive to the needs of dual career couples.

The successful candidate will join a department committed to excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service that advances sustainable and equitable food production systems across a diversity of contexts and peoples. The Department values collaborative scholarship among colleagues in and across the College, University, and other relevant stakeholders. The Ohio State University has a world-class array of resources and opportunities for new faculty, including the OSU-Extension Program in Urban Agriculture, Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory (housing the OSU Student Farm, Controlled Environment Food Production Research Complex, Multi-species Livestock Learning Center, and JamesCare for Life’s Garden of Hope for cancer survivors), Sustainability Institute, Food Innovation Center, Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation, Agroecosystem Management Program, Organic Food, Farming Education and Research Program, OSU South
Centers, and the Ohio State Mansfield and Marion Microfarms. Multiple opportunities exist for collaboration with OSU faculty in various departments, schools, centers, and institutes working in areas complementary to this position. The successful candidate will be among the newest members of a growing community of departmental and University scientists, extension professionals, and educators addressing large questions surrounding all dimensions of sustainability and resilience in concert with stakeholders. These teams focus on people and their application of human and natural resources in meeting needs for food, health, and income, including in urban settings.