

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TITLE SERIES

I. DEFINITIONS

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EQUIPMENT OPERATOR - ENTRY

This is an entry-level position. The work performed is under close progressing to limited supervision. Positions identified at this level learn and perform routine tasks using agricultural equipment including discs, harrows, field cultivators, culti-mulchers, rakes, stalk choppers, and manure spreaders to perform soil preparation, loading and applying manure, raking and tedding hay, and chopping stalks. Operate pickups, and small trailers not requiring a CDL. Operate and maintain lawn equipment such as mowers, clippers, weed whackers, lawn rollers, and head shears. Positions allocated to this classification are receiving further training and experience in: basic tractor and implement operation, basics of proper forage harvesting and preservation, operation of large trucks, operation of site specific hand held power tools, basics of animal waste and fertilizer application to fields, reporting machinery maintenance needs, basics of agronomical research record keeping, maintaining records for completion of all site specific tasks. This position will also assist in completion of manual labor tasks as directed by supervisor or lead worker.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EQUIPMENT OPERATOR - OBJECTIVE

This is full performance technical work performed under general supervision. At this level, positions are differentiated from the entry-level by the increased scope and range of technical knowledge and skills required and the increased complexity of duties and equipment.

Positions perform tasks identified at the AREO-Entry level and in addition may perform any combination of the following duties: operate complex/technical equipment including tractors, tillage equipment, pesticide applicators, planting equipment, small research plot based equipment, heavy equipment, combines and forage harvest equipment; make equipment adjustments for field and environmental conditions to increase effectiveness of equipment, minimize crop damage, etc.; calibrate pesticide applicators, fertilizer and manure spreaders, and hay preservative and silage inoculants applicators; calibrate and operate electronic monitors which are used to monitor seeding rates, grain yields, pesticide application rates and determining grain moisture; maintain research records; operate skid steer, tractor loader and pay loader; operate construction equipment including dozers, bobcats, end loaders, graders and land movers; ensile forages in upright or horizontal silos; assist mechanics in the maintenance and repair of agricultural research equipment; manage grain facilities for drying, transferring and storing corn, soybeans and small grains; perform routine crop scouting for weeds, insects and fertility problems. Operate tandem axle trucks and semis to transport feed, forage, bedding and equipment.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EQUIPMENT OPERATOR - SENIOR

Positions at this level perform senior level technical work related to completing agronomic tasks under general supervision. Positions at this level function with considerable independence of action in providing a variety of technical support and take appropriate action in adjusting equipment to changing field and crop conditions.

Positions at this level perform tasks identified at the lower levels **and also meet one of the following allocations:** (1) **for a majority of the time** perform complex duties such as prepare technically sophisticated agricultural machinery for harvesting, planting, spraying, etc.; perform complex calibration to comply with research protocols; exercise sound judgment and complex problem solving skills in responding to facility, equipment, or field operation issues; work with researchers and students in coordinating research activities on research plots, read and interpret research protocols regarding the care and maintenance of agronomic crops, implement standard operating procedures and monitor compliance, and perform advanced record keeping for research needs; handle, mix and apply pesticides, maintain detailed records of pesticide applications, pesticide inventory and equipment calibration; maintain and repair agricultural equipment and vehicles as well as building systems such as water well systems, irrigation equipment, septic systems, etc.; or (2) function as a **lead worker** responsible for assigning, training, guiding and reviewing the work of lower level Agricultural Research Equipment Operators in the unit on a permanent continuous basis and may lead students and limited term employees; or (3) serve as the **primary** Agricultural Research Equipment Operator at a Research Station where there is no on-site supervisor available on a daily basis and is responsible for the full scope of research equipment operations.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

Some positions may require a commercial driver's license (CDL) with all the endorsements required for operation on the specific work site as well as a Pesticide Applicators License (either Commercial or Private depending on the work site).

III. RELATED TITLES

UW Agriculture Supervisor
Heavy Equipment Operator
Motor Vehicle Operator – Heavy
Animal Research Technician