

GRAYSON COUNTY

Agriculture - Economic Development Director

Grayson County is currently accepting applications for the position of Agriculture & Economic Development Specialist. Under the supervision of the County Administrator & in coordination with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the ED Specialist is responsible for identifying, developing, & recruiting emerging agricultural/horticultural opportunities for Grayson County. He/she will lead in the pursuit & vetting of new business opportunities in the areas of agriculture, food security, livelihoods & economic growth and provide technical leadership for the planning, review, research & implementation of agricultural economic expansion initiatives.

- **JOB DESCRIPTION:** The primary responsibility of the Agriculture - Economic Development Specialist is to identify, develop, and recruit emerging agricultural and horticultural opportunities for Grayson County, Virginia. Under the supervision of the County Administrator and in coordination with Virginia Cooperative Extension, s/he will lead in the pursuit and vetting of new business opportunities in the areas of agriculture, food security, livelihoods and economic growth; and provide technical leadership for the planning, review, research and implementation of agricultural economic expansion initiatives. The Specialist will work frequently with other county officials to promote synergies across departments. A key function of the Specialist is to develop marketing opportunities for locally produced products using local and regional events and state programs while documenting approaches, successes, lessons learned, and best practices. The Specialist will work to ensure alignment of priorities, and to enhance and focus on agriculture-related goals.

DUTIES:

- Identify and develop new and emerging agriculture economic opportunities
- Oversee policies, procedures, sustainment and expansion of direct marketing programs of agriculture, horticulture and forestry products
- Represent agriculture-related interests in all internal County Government discussions
- Identify “boundary” opportunities between agriculture and forestry
- Recommend policies and procedures to sustain and expand the county’s agricultural strength
- Lead the County Fair committee in conjunction with the Youth Livestock Committee
- Act as the staff representative and clerk to the county’s Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Maintain effective communication and strong collaboration with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other local, state and federal agencies
- Identify and develop career and technical education programs with Grayson County Public Schools
- Supervise farmer market managers to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations
- In conjunction with VCE, conduct workshops on direct marketing agriculture and horticulture products
- Develop and coordinate agri-tourism events with Director of Tourism

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- Agriculture marketing experience required
- Demonstrated ability to recruit, select, train and manage volunteers.
- Demonstrated ability to lead groups, plan, implement, facilitate, teach and evaluate educational information programs.
- Knowledge and use of computer technology in educational programming, communications, and management.
- Effective verbal and written communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to work effectively with low income, limited resource and minority audiences.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision in an unstructured setting.
- Maintain a personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues

EXPERIENCE & TRAINING: High school diploma or its equivalent.

REQUIRED: Must be 18 years or older & have a valid driver's license.

Salary – DOQ&E.

All candidates must provide a resume' and a **completed Virginia State Application** (can access from website listed below) to: Grayson County Administration, PO Box 217, Independence, VA 24348. Grayson County website at: www.graysoncountyva.gov look under public services. Position will be open until filled. Grayson County is an EEO/AA employer.