WHAT’S GROWING AT VAN DRUNEN FARMS AND FUTURECEUTICALS? WE ARE!
As a global, growing, and vibrant ingredient and nutritional supplement supplier to the world’s best companies, Van Drunen Farms and FutureCeuticals are always seeking positive and talented employees to help our company reach the next level. We provide a family-oriented company and an opportunity to grow professionally and personally.

JOB OVERVIEW:
The Agronomist is responsible for overseeing crop health, pest management, and scouting, as well as managing the research trials and projects completed by the agriculture department. The Agronomist should continually study the crops and soils to develop new methods to improve and increase the quality and production of the food crops.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Regularly scout fields to monitor pest pressure, crop health, and quality
- Manage all field sampling activities, including tissue, soil, and residue sampling
- Oversee all planning, field activities, and data collection in the test plots and for any in-field trials
- Work with field supervisors to plan fertilizer and chemical applications
- Inventory management and procurement of agri-chemicals and fertilizers
- Assist crop manager with field planning and crop rotation plans
- Seek out and evaluate new products for potential usage on VDF crops
- Assist with administrative duties as needed to maintain all farm records
- Monitor and schedule proper use of all herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers
- Supervise spray and fertilizer applicators
JOB PROFILE

• Actively participate on the Agriculture Leadership Team and role-model leadership behaviors
• Ensure that all safety procedures are followed. Work with the Safety department to continually improve safety awareness, behavior and conditions
• In partnership with the Quality department, facilitate internal and external audits
• Ensure that all FSMA and Good Agriculture Practices are followed. Work with the Ag/Farm Plant Quality Manager to continually improve product quality and food safety
• Continually work towards improving efficiencies in Agriculture
• Conduct all duties in an environmentally responsible manner
• Perform any other duty as assigned

JOB EXPERIENCE:

• 1+ years of experience in a similar role working with specialty crops and research initiatives

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

• Strong scouting and pest identification skills
• Strong technical agri-science skills
• Familiar with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and e-mail.
• Developed listening, verbal, and written communication skills.
• Must be flexible and adaptable to changing priorities.
• Must be a problem-solver who demonstrates good judgement.
• Ability to work with a team and independently
• Some travel is required with this position

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION:

• Bachelor’s degree in Agronomy, Horticulture, or an Ag field is required
• Candidate must be able to attain and keep active an Illinois Pesticide Applicators License
• A Valid driver’s license is required

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Disclaimer
The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and technical skills required of personnel so classified.
The person in this role would focus on soil health and growing best practices, pesticide selection and application, quality control, and special research projects. We grow all specialty crops, mainly culinary herbs (chives, basil, cilantro, kale, parsley, green onions, and dill) and multi-harvest items. We have about 2000 acres in Momence, IL and 30% is organic. Everything we grow we process and sell to other food companies. For example, our chives go into Kraft’s Philadelphia Cream Cheese. Our company is actually the world’s largest food freeze dryer and food ingredient manufacturers. We are global (California, Chile, Serbia, China) so there would be an opportunity to travel (not required), but our heart is located right here in small town Momence, IL.

The role would be about 60% “in the field” and 40% behind the desk. The desk portion would be doing a lot of data tracking and statistics updates. In addition, they would work directly with vendors to purchase fertilizer/pesticides, etc. What I think is a huge plus to this role in terms of an opportunity to build experience is, the Food Safety and quality portion of the role. This is pretty unique to a Van Drunen Farms Agronomist due to the nature of our business. We would train this resource on all things Food Safety/Quality compliance which is a hot skill set right now!

In terms of compensation, we are flexible for the right resource as long as their experience matches. For someone with about 1-2 years of experience, we would be targeting roughly $65K and then negotiable based on the more years of experience the individual brings. The role is M-F here in Momence and we have a GREAT Ag team that is very forward thinking. For example, we have created a lot of our own unique farming equipment based on our needs and even invented a downy mildew resistant basil seed!