

Position Announcement

Position: Center Director

West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center (WTREC), located in Jackson, TN
Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Stations

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for the comprehensive administration and management of the UT WTREC.
- Exert visionary leadership and serve as a catalyst for the implementation of innovative research projects.
- Direct the execution of research plans developed by faculty scientists.
- Recruit qualified staff and promote their professional development.
- Manage finances, assets, land, equipment and personnel to meet needs of the research program.
- Nurture productive relationships with a wide variety of entities across the Institute of Agriculture and University community, as well as the local community and constituents external to the University.
- Work with local faculty, agents and specialists to plan and conduct annual field days.
- The WTREC functions independently from any single department and reports directly to the Dean of UT AgResearch/Director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES).
- The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is seeking candidates who have the ability to contribute in meaningful ways to the diversity and intercultural goals of the University.
- The Director provides supervision to the following positions at the WTREC:
 - Administrative Assistants (2.0 FTE) Farm
 - Manager and Assistants (2.5 FTE)
 - Maintenance Supervisor and Assistant (2.0 FTE)
 - Ornamental Horticulture Research Associate and Assistant (2.0 FTE)
 - Agronomy Research Associate and Assistant (2.0 FTE)

AGRESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER INFORMATION

One of ten outdoor research and teaching laboratories in the University of Tennessee AgResearch System, the WTREC serves the agricultural community of west Tennessee. The center is located in Jackson, TN, 310 miles west of the main campus in Knoxville. Founded in 1907 and originally known as UT's West Tennessee Experiment Station, the facility's name was changed to the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center to more accurately reflect the center's mission to meet agricultural research and information needs of West Tennessee. The center includes some 650 acres to meet the scientists' needs.

Research performed at the center strives to help landowners produce better and more abundant crops while another research focus is on ornamental horticulture and the Green Industry. The Center is home to The UT Gardens - Jackson, which is one of three University of Tennessee Gardens that make up the State Botanical Garden of Tennessee.

The WTREC hosts numerous industry and public tours, including the annual Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden show, held the second Thursday in July. This event showcases the Green Industry and attracts thousands of gardeners, homeowners, and plant enthusiasts who desire to learn the latest information related to lawns, gardens, and ornamental plantings. The Center also hosts numerous other technology transfer events including Row Crop Scout Schools, the UT Weed Tour, Turf Day, the UT Cotton Tour and more.

With over 46,000 square feet in the main building, personnel from various organizations are stationed at this location including:

- UT AgResearch staff (19)
- Principal Investigators from four Departments (11)
- UT Western Region Extension (16)
- USDA (10)
- UT Institute for Public Service (10)
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture (1)
- FFA (1)
- UT Foundation (1)
- Tennessee Corn Producers Board (1)

Information about UT AgResearch may be found at <https://agresearch.tennessee.edu/> and information specific to the WTREC at <http://west.tennessee.edu/>.

MINIMUM REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- A Master's degree (preferably in the field of agricultural science or related area). Candidates in the process of obtaining degree will be considered if degree conferred by Sept. 1, 2020.
- Five years of experience in conducting and/or directing agricultural research.
- Strong leadership and communication skills, and other personal attributes necessary to manage and direct a research and education center.
- Demonstrated commitment to and knowledge of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.
- Demonstrated ability to administer budgets and manage personnel.
- Ability to lead, work well with others, and work with a diverse range of constituents.

PREFERRED/DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Research and/or managerial experience at a university (preferably land-grant institution) or related agricultural industry experience.
- An earned doctorate degree, with knowledge/experience with row crop production.
- Background or experiences in agricultural or natural resource production/management.

- Desired start date is Sept. 1, 2020.

LOCATION INFORMATION

Jackson is the County Seat of Madison County and was named in 1822 in honor of Andrew Jackson, a hero of the recent War of 1812. Jackson's sister-in-law Jane Hayes lived in the city, and the General played an important role in the early history of Madison County. Jackson is located in west Tennessee on I-40 approximately 85 miles east of Memphis and 130 miles west of Nashville. Today Madison County offers a wide variety of economic, cultural, and educational benefits. It is the home of University of Memphis at Lambuth, Union University, Lane College, and Jackson State Community College. For many years, Jackson has hosted the Miss Tennessee pageant. Several musical artists claim Madison County as their home, including Sonny Boy Williamson, a legendary blues and harmonica artist; Big Maybell, a gospel and blues recording artist; Denise LaSalle, Queen of the Soul Blues; and Carl Perkins, Mr. "Blue Suede Shoes." Once largely agricultural, the county's economy now rests on a diversified industrial and commercial base. Transportation continues to be important to county development, and Madison County is served by Interstate 40, three railroads (Norfolk-Southern, CSX Transportation, and West Tennessee Railroad), and McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Nominations of qualified individuals are sought and should be sent electronically to the Search Committee Chair at the address shown below. Applications must be completed online. The position posting along with application instructions can be found at https://ut.taleo.net/careersection/ut_system/jobdetail.ftl?job=20000000E7&tz=GMT-04%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew_York . Please attach: (1) a cover letter summarizing the applicant's qualifications and interest in the position; (2) a complete curriculum vitae; and (3) names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of at least five references (contacted with permission). Review of applications will begin May 4, 2020. The Search Committee will review and continue to receive applications until an appointment is made.

Nominations and other inquiries should be addressed to:

Dr. Blake Brown
Chair, Search Committee
Director, UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan
3-A Ledbetter Gate Road
Milan, TN 38358
E-mail: bbrown12@utk.edu Phone:
731-686-7362

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic

information, veteran status, and parental status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the university. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), the ADA (disability), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone 865-974-2498. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.