POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 0001-3733
Requisition # 493674

Title: Assistant Professor – Applied Tomato Geneticist

Location: Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Balm, Florida

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Review Date: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit all materials by December 14, 2015. The position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is identified.

Duties and Responsibilities
This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position with an 80% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 20% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service) appointment, at the University of Florida's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) near Tampa, Florida. The assignment may change in accordance with the needs of IFAS and the unit. Tenure will accrue in the University of Florida, Horticultural Sciences Department. The appointee will develop a nationally recognized plant molecular genetics program focused on utilizing contemporary genetic, genomic, and/or molecular approaches to study and advance tomato genetics leading to the improvement of traits of importance to tomato production in Florida. Areas of research focus include, but are not limited to molecular genetics, structural and functional genomics, bioinformatics, and genetic engineering. The successful candidate will be an integral team member of the UF tomato breeding program, developing tools and strategies to further the development and release of advanced tomato breeding lines and/or finished hybrids with economic importance to the commercial tomato industry in Florida. The appointee will also be an active member of an interdisciplinary statewide team of other research and extension personnel that include horticulturalists, plant pathologists, entomologists, nematologists, weed scientists, and county extension agents whose goal is to enhance and sustain the tomato industry in Florida. The appointee will develop a strong extramurally funded research program that leads to publishing in peer-reviewed journals, as well as an extension program that assists with the training of extension agents, commercial growers, and industry breeders and representatives through participation in extension programs, informal outreach, and the development of printed and electronic extension materials. The successful candidate will participate actively in graduate education by chairing and serving on graduate committees, supervising thesis and dissertation research and publishing research and extension materials with graduate students. In addition to the Horticultural Sciences Department, the appointee would be encouraged to be an active member of the Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology Program (http://pmcb.ifas.ufl.edu), which offers a unique interdisciplinary graduate degree program consisting of 45 faculty members from 3 colleges and 8 departments within the University of Florida.
Because of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty are expected to be supportive of and engaged in all three mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignment split specified in the position description.

Qualifications
A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in plant-based molecular genetics, genomics, or a closely related discipline is required. Postdoctoral experience with research and extension duties relative to this position is highly desirable. Candidates should possess demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, working cooperatively with others, and acquiring extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system and be committed to IFAS' core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

Background Information:
The Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/) has diverse research, extension and teaching programs with 20 faculty members located at Balm (mailing address Wimauma) and Plant City teaching program, with specialization in economics, geomatics, horticulture, pest management, plant breeding, and resource management. GCREC is a modern research and education facility that includes offices and laboratories, 15 greenhouses, approximately 500 acres of field operations, and housing for up to 16 resident graduate students.

The University of Florida (http://www.ufl.edu) is a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, and Space-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 50,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (http://ifas.ufl.edu) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (http://cals.ufl.edu), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (http://research.ifas.ufl.edu), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu), the College of Veterinary Medicine (http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu), the Florida Sea Grant program (http://www.flseagrant.org/), and encompasses 16 on-campus academic departments and schools, 12 Research and Educational Centers (RECs) located throughout the state, 6 Research sites/demonstration units administered by RECs or academic departments, and Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties (counties operate and maintain). The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 2500 people, which includes approximately 900 faculty and 1200 support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. IFAS, one of the nation’s largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

Employment Conditions
This position is available and will be filled as soon as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

Nominations
Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:
Dr. Gary Vallad  
Chair Search and Screen Committee  
University of Florida  
Gulf Coast Research and Education Center  
14625 CR 672  
Wimauma, FL 33598

Telephone: 813.633.4121  
Facsimile: 813.634.0001  
Electronic Mail: gvallad@ufl.edu

Application Information

- Individuals wishing to apply should go online to http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/493674 and submit:
  - Application
  - Cover letter that states applicant’s interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Names and contact information (e-mail address and phone number) of three individuals who will provide letters of recommendation

- Send unofficial transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree and the three letters of recommendation to:

(Please refer to requisition # 493674)

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Chair Search and Screen Committee  
University of Florida  
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14625 CR 672  
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Electronic Mail: gvallad@ufl.edu

Final candidate will be required to provide an official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at http://www.naces.org/.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of
Florida’s ‘Government in the Sunshine’ and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.