Frogmore Ranch LLC

Blueberry Farm Ag Manager

Background on Frogmore Ranch and Operations: Frogmore Ranch, a 407 acre tract, that is on the Brooksville Ridge in Pasco County near Dade City and has some of the highest land elevation in the state is starting a commercial blueberry growing operation. Historically for the last 100 years the ranch has been cattle grazing land. The Pithlachascotee sand on the property makes the ranch idea blueberry growing land based on the success of other growers in the area. The high well-draining land should give the operation competitive advantages. Frogmore has worked over the last year with the USDA and with the Southwest Water Management personnel on best practices and as a result a large tail water recovery pond is being installed in addition to irrigation wells to conserve ground water and use the PH friendly surface water for irrigation. The blueberry crop area, initially 50 acres is being laid out to take advantage of new advances in mechanical operations, chemical management, water recovery, and mechanical harvesting. If successful with the first 50 acres Frogmore is committed to enlarge the crop area in 50 acre increments subject to water use permit approvals. Since Frogmore is a De Novo operation it has the advantage of being able to take advantage of the latest in both plant hybrids and equipment. The opportunity to be a leader in the industry makes the Ag Manager position particularly attractive to a well trained professional manager. The position of Ag Manager is being created to help manage the phased process of getting Frogmore into the Blueberry business.

The Ag Manager is responsible for overseeing the overall operations at the Ranch. Tasks include but are not limited to: Day to day oversight of contractors installing the infrastructure; input into machinery purchases; control of water resources; supervision of operations during pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest activities; supervision of field operations such as planning for new field establishments and maintenance; planting; pest scouting and pesticide applications; weed control; and training/oversight of contractors and labor. Interface with cattle lessee and follow up on pasture and forest land management plan is also required on the unplanted areas of the ranch.

Position Reports to: Frogmore Ranch Managing Member

Responsibilities & Duties: Oversee the operations, coordination and supervision of field operations throughout the year, including but not limited to, land prep, fumigation, planting, cultivating, irrigating, pest scouting, pesticide applications, fertilization, bush setting, and weed and animal control; fence maintenance; and mowing between rows and installing and maintaining appropriate ground cover on all sloped surfaces.

Oversee and provide input into land analysis, crop rotation, crop yields, land preparation, planting, irrigation, fertilizer and spray programs, weed and disease control, crop growth over time and all requirements that fall into pre, post and harvest execution.

Provide input in the budget process, and monitor and execute tasks within the parameters of the budget.
Requirements:

Five (5) years work experience, including supervisory experience is desired, or an equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted that provides the skills, knowledge and abilities to perform the essential functions of the position.

Qualified Applicators License is desired or must be willing to obtain one within 1 – 2 years

Qualifications:

Knowledge and skill in providing consultation on fertilizer and chemical applications in the small fruit industry.

Knowledge of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and the ability to apply such.

Good communication and interpersonal skills are required to work with and supervise contractors and employees with a wide range of skills sets, educational levels and personalities.

Ability to maintain accurate, detailed computerized records of field activities, employee timesheets, maintenance and usage records, financial information capture and other required documentation.

Preventative maintenance system creation and maintenance of both rolling stock and fixed mechanical and water systems.

Education: Bachelor’s degree with an emphasis in agricultural studies

Compensation and Benefits: Competitive Salary and Benefits including a bonus tied to production and quality of fruit are available.

Contact:

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