AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Economist

Department: Economic Analysis

Function: Conduct research, policy analysis, presentations and commentaries on a wide variety of economic questions and issues of importance to farmers and ranchers in the United States agricultural sector, particularly those associated with shifts in trade or environmental policy.

Reports to: Chief Economist

Specialization:
1. Be well versed in conducting analysis of economic implications of either trade or environmental policy changes, but with the ability to become educated in and capable of handling analytical requests in the other areas.
2. Be familiar with the data sets needed to analyze policy reform questions, and take responsibility for ensuring the organization has the latest information available.
3. Be prepared to make presentations to the organization’s membership on agricultural issues, as well as helping to conduct ongoing education efforts related to the effects of policy changes and the underlying economics. Particular areas of interest involve trade effects on agriculture and the general economy as well as economic implications of shifting environmental regulations.

Duties and Responsibilities:
1. Provide written economic policy analyses and commentaries in support of Farm Bureau policy activities for AFBF and state Farm Bureau staff, volunteer leaders and interested people outside Farm Bureau.
2. Work with other Farm Bureau Departments in coordinating efforts on trade and environmental policy.
3. Make economic presentations to state Farm Bureau groups and other audiences explaining the economics of Farm Bureau policy positions.
4. Represent Farm Bureau at professional and semi-professional economic meetings and other functions to explain impacts of Farm Bureau policy positions and gain knowledge about policy issues.
5. Respond to media and other inquiries concerning the economic aspects of Farm Bureau policy work.
6. Work with various AFBF task forces, study groups, staff committees, working groups and at AFBF meeting activities to provide economic input.
7. Work with outside economic consultants on a regular basis on special economic research projects in support of Farm Bureau policies.
8. Arrange conferences and meetings on economic policy issues for state Farm Bureau staff and volunteer leaders.
9. Maintain professional competence by attending and participating in professional meetings, seminars and other activities to improve individual skills and abilities.
10. Assist the Chief Economist in developing the Department’s work plan for the following operational period.
**Authority:**
With the Chief Economist, plan a work schedule for research and analyses on trade issues and the effects of new environmental regulations.

Transmit research findings and analyses after internal discussion and coordination with the Chief Economist.

Carry out travel, memberships, conferences and special projects within the budget established for the team.

**Relationships:**
Economists work directly with a wide range of AFBF staff, state Farm Bureau staff, state Farm Bureau volunteer leaders, other industry leaders, government officials, members of the media and others interested in agricultural policy issues.

**Requirements:**
Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics or related field with 3-5 years experience in conducting analysis of trade and/or environmental policy changes. Experience with common software packages such as Microsoft Office, as well as statistical analysis packages such as Statpac, Stata or Simetar. While specialization in only one of the two areas of Trade and Environment is expected, the successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to develop proficiency in the other areas of focus. Extension experience is considered a definite plus.

**Travel Percentage:**
Individual in this position should expect to spend 20-30% of their time traveling outside of the DC office.

**Salary:**
Commensurate with experience and in line with AFBF compensation schedules.

*To apply for this position, please submit résumé to Stefphanie Gambrell, Human Resources Generalist, American Farm Bureau Federation, 600 Maryland Avenue SW, Suite 1000W, Washington, DC 20024. Electronic applications will be accepted at sgambrell@aaic.com. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 25, 2011.*