

Role description

General information

Title:	Agricultural Officer			Classification:	OPS1	
Division:	SARDI	Branch:	Research Support		Business unit:	Farm Operations
Type of appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of duty:	37.5	Location:	Loxton Research Centre	

About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the role is to support the effective operation of the Loxton Research Farm by undertaking a broad range of practical activities typical of commercial irrigated horticulture. The position also provides assistance to research projects by applying treatments, collecting samples, and maintaining accurate data records to support the assessment of cultural and irrigation practices.

The role directly contributes to the agency's priorities of Increasing Productivity, Growing Regions, and Performing Well. It supports the delivery of applied science that underpins the growth and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries.

Located within the Loxton Research Centre (LRC), a recognised centre of excellence for research, development, and extension in the Riverland and Northern Mallee, the role operates in a collaborative environment that drives innovation in horticultural and agronomic production systems across Australia. As a shared PIRSA facility, the LRC provides offices, laboratories, and field plantings for SARDI researchers, PIRSA staff, and a wide range of partners including government agencies, private enterprise, industry groups, and international research organisations.

Key accountabilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide assistance across a diverse range of horticultural crops, supporting day-to-day production and research activities. Undertake ground preparation, installing and maintaining irrigation systems, and performing routine crop maintenance to ensure optimal plant health and productivity. Carry out weed and pest control activities within crop areas and surrounding zones to maintain compliance with research and biosecurity requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect trial data in accordance with prescribed research methodologies and ensuring accuracy and reliability in all recorded information. Maintain farm and research equipment to ensure safe and efficient operation. Promptly report any incidents, issues, or operational requirements to the Research Centre Manager to support effective farm and research operations. |
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Key deliverables / results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain irrigation systems across the farms and trial sites to ensure consistent water delivery and optimal crop performance. Routine monitoring, troubleshooting, and undertaking repairs as required to support both commercial and research planting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify issues, applying corrective actions, and ensuring that production and research activities meet regulatory and organisational expectations. Daily diary entries are completed to document all tasks, treatments, and observations, ensuring accurate and traceable records that support research data integrity and operational transparency. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake the calibration and application of herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and other treatments as prescribed by researchers, in accordance with documented procedures, safety requirements, and research protocols to ensure accuracy, compliance, and the integrity of trial outcomes. Contribute to quality control processes by monitoring crops and implementing practices that maintain compliance with Food Safety standards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain service scheduling for machinery and equipment, ensuring that all assets are regularly inspected, serviced, and kept in safe working order to support efficient farm and research operations. |
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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role reports to the Research Centre Manager, SARDI, Loxton Research Centre Liaise with other Research Centre Managers in SARDI, as required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with a range of professional, technical, farm staff and external stakeholders. The role interacts with local community and industry. |
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Requirements

- Possession of a current driver's license and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations when [applying for a role](#).
- The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.

Qualifications

- The role requires the operation of a truck, tractor, spray equipment, fork lift, front end loader, RTV utility vehicles and chainsaw.
- Essential: Prepared to undertake appropriate training and gain licenses to operate relevant farm equipment. Chemcert certificates, Senior First Aid certificate, Forklift drivers' certificate, Front End Loader drivers certificate, Certificate in Chainsaw operations and maintenance, Heavy Vehicle truck driver's license, certificates in OHS&W

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional and Technical Knowledge Demonstrate willingness to gain knowledge of best farming practices. Awareness of horticultural practices. Willingness to develop functional operation of farm equipment and machinery.	- Proven experience in practical, hands-on farming operations. - Applies safe procedures for storing, handling, using, and recording agricultural chemicals. - Implements commercial-scale horticultural husbandry practices to a high standard. - Maintains current knowledge of horticultural methods, regulations, and industry requirements. - Accurately interprets detailed instructions and trial plans, following set data collection and recording protocols. - Consistently applies quality control processes to meet Food Safety compliance standards and seeks expert guidance when needed.

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Quality Focus Demonstrates continuous drive, enthusiasm and the ability to deliver high quality results Striving to deliver work of a high standard and to achieve quality results and continuous improvement	• Recognises the need for quality in practical work. • Implements own tasks according to established procedures to achieve quality results • Exercises a professional approach to duties
Communication Communicating with people effectively both verbally and in writing; connecting with others through exchanging information and ideas	• Communicates easily in interactions with others and conveys information clearly. • Speaks clearly and courteously in a confident manner. • Seeks to understand the viewpoint of others, asks questions to clarify meaning.
Teamwork Working collaboratively with others to achieve shared goals, sharing information and passing on expertise; actively promoting harmony and team spirit.	• Works cooperatively as part of the team. • Understands the work of the group and demonstrates commitment to team goals. • Responds to requests for action with a positive attitude.
HRMS no.:	ANZCO Code:
Delegate approval:	Prof. Mike Steer Executive Director  Objective ID: Date: 09/06/2026
Approved and classified by People and Culture:	Kate Gautier, Principal HR Business Partner, SARDI