



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

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**Job Title:** Research Entomologist (Program Leader)    **Supervisor:** Gerald Holmes (Director)  
**Department:** Strawberry Center    **Location:** Technology Park, Suite 1B

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### **Job Summary**

The Strawberry Center at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo invites applications for a Strawberry Research Entomologist. The Strawberry Center's mission is to increase the sustainability of California's \$3.1 billion strawberry industry through applied research and education. The Strawberry Center is closely aligned with the California strawberry industry and receives significant financial and advisory support from the California Strawberry Commission. The successful applicant is expected to develop a strong applied research program addressing applied entomological problems for the strawberry industry. These problems include important management challenges with lygus, mites and other arthropod pests. Losses to the California strawberry industry from these pests are estimated to be greater than \$100 million/year. The successful candidate will conduct stakeholder driven, applied research focused on improving the management of strawberry arthropod pests. Candidates with established records of productive applied research programs and broad agricultural entomology and IPM experience are encouraged to apply.

The appointment will focus primarily on applied research and will also assist the Director of the Strawberry Center with administrative oversight of the Center and its integration in the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences and the Plant Sciences department. A new entomology lab and technical assistance are provided. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is located on California's Central Coast, with all strawberry production regions within 2.5 hours driving time from campus. The Strawberry Center is housed at Technology Park and the main campus with access to 10 acres of campus research fields within walking distance. Collaboration with local strawberry growers is expected with Santa Maria offering the closest opportunity (30 miles).

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Conduct applied research on entomological issues facing the California strawberry industry; primary pests include lygus bug, mites and spotted-wing drosophila
- Focus on practical problems with potential for high impact to the strawberry industry in the near term (i.e. 1-3 years)
- Develop strong rapport and work effectively with allied Cal Poly faculty, staff and students, growers, pest control advisors (PCAs) and other industry collaborators
- Obtain research grants to support research projects and students
- Report research results at industry, scientific and other appropriate meetings
- Publish research results in journals and media appropriate to the work (e.g., research reports, conference proceedings, peer-reviewed journals)
- Become a recognized authority in the area of strawberry arthropod management
- Develop a nationally recognized applied research program with targeted impact on local growers
- Advise undergraduate and graduate students on senior projects and Master's theses
- Assist the Director in the administrative duties of the Strawberry Center (e.g., safety, training, personnel management; represent the Center at various university and industry committees and functions)
- Manage budgets and ensure deadlines are met on all projects
- Participate as a member of the Strawberry Center Team that includes 12 staff, 20-30 students and many different ongoing projects
- Attend training and maintain skill currency as appropriate to safely and effectively complete assignments
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Director

### **Supervisory Responsibilities**

- Directly supervise assigned employees (e.g., entomology research associate, graduate students and part-time student assistants). Carry out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with Cal Poly Corporation's policies and applicable laws and regulations
- Supervise the daily activities of the Center, including but not limited to, effective delegation of assignments, training and resources necessary to meet performance standards and assist employees in improving performance relevant to job requirements
- Conduct performance evaluations with direct reports using established policies consistent with Center goals and objectives
- Direct and monitor employees to ensure that they remain in compliance with policies and procedures
- Subordinates may include: Research Associate, Lab Manager, Master's students, postdoctoral researchers, part-time student assistants, etc.

### **Position Requirements**

- Ph.D. in entomology or M.S. in entomology plus 6 to 8 years of experience in applied entomology research
- Experience in extending research results to industry members using a variety of print and electronic media
- Ability to interact effectively with a wide variety of people in the Strawberry Center, California Strawberry Commission, strawberry industry, allied industries, academia and government
- Demonstrable skills in verbal and written communication and a passion for grower engagement/outreach
- A strong track record of extramural funding from commodity and government-based granting agencies
- Ability to initiate, establish, and foster communication and teamwork by maintaining a positive, cooperative, productive work atmosphere in and outside the University with the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships within a diverse population and with those from various cultural backgrounds
- Thorough knowledge of English grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Ability to interpret, communicate and apply policies and procedures
- Excellent organizational and time management skills with the ability to set own priorities to coordinate multiple assignments with fluctuating and time-sensitive deadlines
- Excellent computer skills and proficiency with a variety of computer applications including word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, statistics, on-line systems, Internet as well as online calendaring and email
- Working knowledge of—or ability to quickly learn—University infrastructure, policies and procedures
- Maintain regular and reliable working hours
- Possession of a valid driver's license and satisfactory driving record. Ability to obtain a California Driver's License within 3 months of hiring
- Pass a state required background check (required for all regular benefited positions)
- Able to work occasional evenings, weekends and holidays and adjust working hours to meet special tasks
- This position classification has been defined as "Exempt" and is not subject to the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
- This position is indefinite in duration, based on satisfactory performance and available funds
- This "at will" position serves at the pleasure of the Director of the Strawberry Center

### **Physical Requirements**

- Hearing and speaking to exchange information in person or on the telephone
- Dexterity of hands, fingers, and wrist to operate a computer keyboard, calculator and field research equipment
- Seeing to read a variety of materials and perform field and laboratory research
- Sitting or standing for extended periods
- Physical agility to lift 50 pounds to shoulder height
- Physical agility to lift, carry, push, or pull objects including in agricultural fields
- Commuting on an as-needed basis to outside meetings and training locations

To apply, go to <https://www.calpolycorporationjobs.org/postings/1943>