**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

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

**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 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 high-impact 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. 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 encouraged 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 and mites)
- Focus on practical problems with potential for high impact to the industry in the near term
- Develop strong rapport and work effectively with growers, pest control advisors 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 an applied research program that is recognized locally and nationally for excellence
- 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)
- Effectively manage budgets and meet deadlines on all projects
- Participate as a member of the Strawberry Center Team which includes 12 staff, 10-15 students and many different ongoing projects
- Perform other job-related duties and special projects as assigned
- Attend training and maintain skill currency as appropriate to safely and effectively complete assignments
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 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.
- Develop and implement an effective performance and department goals and objectives, provide performance evaluations, and implement appropriate counseling.
- Direct and monitor employees to ensure that they remain in compliance with policies and procedures.
- Subordinates may include: Research Associate, 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, academia and government.
- Ability to meet project deadlines and manage budgets.
- Demonstrable skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relations, and procurement of extramural funding.
- Demonstrate a very high level of diplomacy and professionalism.
- Ability to use tact, courtesy and diplomacy to effectively handle a broad range of high level and sensitive interpersonal situations with diverse personalities, and to respond appropriately to conflicts and problems.
- 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.
- Excellent communication skills; ability to effectively communicate information in a clear and understandable manner, both verbally and in writing.
- 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.
- Ability to maintain regular and reliable attendance.
- Possession of a valid California Driver’s License and satisfactory driving record.
- A background check is required for all regular benefited positions.
- Must be able to work occasional weekends and holidays and adjust working hours to meet special tasks.
- This position is temporary in nature and of limited duration based on satisfactory performance and available funds.
- The person holding this position is considered a ‘mandated reporter’ under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.

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 period.
- Physical agility to lift 50 pounds to shoulder height.
- Physical agility to lift, carry, push, or pull objects.
- Commuting on an as-needed basis to outside meetings and training locations.

To apply for this position, go to https://www.calpolycorporationjobs.org/postings/1479