

**Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc.**  
**Job Description**  
**LRGV-19-02**  
**Environmental Monitoring Specialist**

**Location: Lower Rio Grande Valley Zone**

**Opens: January 7, 2019**

**Closes: when filled**

Job Title <b>Environmental Monitoring Specialist</b>	Service Location <b>Field Office</b>
FLSA Class <b>Exempt</b>	Job Status <b>Regular</b>
Reports To <b>District Supervisor</b>	
Job Type <b>Supervisory</b>	

**Job Summary**

Monitors and supervises pesticide applications to district cotton fields located near environmentally sensitive sites in accordance with policies and regulations. Performs and/or directs quality control on trap placement, trap protocol and ULV malathion inventory. Promotes good relations with cotton producers and the general public located near sensitive sites. Extensively uses computer software programs, such as MapInfo, Satloc, Del Norte, Wag, AgNav and MS Access, to compile and analyze program data.

**Essential Duties**

Pesticide Applications to Sensitive Sites

- Inspects district cotton fields and coordinates with district and zone management to determine which fields will be designated as sensitive sites.
- Coordinates with office supervisors and other personnel about all aspects of pesticide application to cotton fields located near sensitive sites.
- Supervises and monitors chemical applications near environmentally sensitive sites.
- Trains, plans, assigns and directs work during pesticide treatment to cotton fields near sensitive sites.
- Coordinates and arranges spray applications for cotton fields near sensitive sites and communicates this information, as needed, to pilots, Ground Equipment Operators and Field Technicians.
- Maintains communication with ground personnel and pilot during aerial applications to cotton fields near sensitive sites. Maintains awareness of weather conditions in spray area through visual observation and radio communication.
- Utilizes hand-held instruments to monitor environmental conditions and make treatment decisions.
- Utilizes dye cards to ensure proper pesticide application to cotton fields and to monitor sensitive sites for exposure.

Quality Control

- Performs quality control on district trapping protocol, trapping operations, airport recording operations, ground-observing operations and ground equipment operations to ensure success of the boll weevil eradication program.
- Collects and submits environmental samples for lab analysis.
- Collects and submits ULV malathion samples from inventory for purity analysis.

### Complaints

- Coordinates with Zone Environmental Monitoring Specialist and Headquarters management to address and resolve producer and third party complaints about pesticide applications to or trapping activities in cotton fields.

### Recordkeeping

- Collects data and uses Microsoft Access to record and report:
  1. Pesticide treatments to sensitive-site fields.
  2. Quality control data from trap inspections and other quality control data.
  3. ULV malathion purity samples and other environmental monitoring samples.
  4. Complaints.
  5. Sightings of endangered species near or in cotton fields.

### Driving

- Follows safe-driving practices.
- Drives a Foundation vehicle from the office to the assigned worksite and back in a safe manner to complete essential job duties.
- Reads, understands and follows maps of cotton fields and surrounding areas.
- Maintains complete vehicle mileage and gas records.
- Performs daily maintenance checks on assigned vehicle to ensure mechanical reliability, and reports damage and mechanical problems to supervisor immediately.

### **Other Duties**

- May clean office and surrounding area, as assigned.
- May load wooden stakes and traps from storage building to vehicles as needed for trap deployment, as assigned.
- May perform office duties, as assigned.

### **Essential Job Requirements**

#### Education/Experience Requirements

- Prefer college degree with major course work in Agriculture, Environmental Science or Biology, plus one-year experience in research and/or agriculture practices with exposure to pest control practices and/or cotton management.
- Environmental sampling and monitoring/research experience a plus.
- Thorough knowledge of eradication program guidelines and knowledge of basic principles of pesticide monitoring.

#### Abilities Requirements

- Drive a Foundation vehicle.
- Identify boll weevils.
- Hammer/drive wooden stakes into the ground.
- Read, write and speak English language at a college level.

- Write in a legible manner.
- Follow detailed written or oral instructions and use common sense in carrying out those instructions with minimal direct supervision.
- Enter numbers into a handheld scanner.
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide two-digit numbers.
- Communicate clearly using a two-way radio.
- Communicate clearly with supervisor and co-workers.
- Hear aircraft and radio communication.
- Read and follow cotton field and road maps.
- Perform math operations using the U.S. system of measurement, volume and distance.
- Deal with problems involving concrete variables in standardized situations.
- Grasp basic principles of pest detection, mapping and map reading to quickly and accurately record data.
- Read, analyze and interpret documents such as environmental monitoring plans, safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, technical procedures and government regulations.
- Define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions.
- Interpret a variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables.
- Apply knowledge of computer concepts in using a computer workstation and software to effectively compile data, create maps, track aerial applications and write reports and correspondence.
- Effectively present information and respond to questions from producers and the general public.
- Calculate distances and angles to grasp basic principles of pest detection, mapping and map reading.
- Stress safe working habits and identify unsafe and hazardous working conditions.
- Think and move rapidly to deal with emergency situations.

#### Driving Requirements

- Have and maintain a valid driver's license.
- Be insurable under the Foundation's auto insurance guidelines.

#### Special Requirements

- Willing and able to work hours longer than normal office hours, which may include evenings, weekends and holidays, as requested by supervisor.
- Regular attendance is an essential requirement for this position.
- Willing and able to provide blood samples as needed for ongoing cholinesterase monitoring program.
- Maintain valid state Non-commercial, Political Pesticide Applicator's license.

#### Physical Requirements

Must be physically and mentally able to travel to and work in **isolated, remote** cotton fields.

Work involves:

- Performing all essential duties and job responsibilities of this position in a safe and effective manner.
- Driving daily over extremely rough roads, ruts, washouts and slippery, muddy fields.

- Daily walking, hiking, climbing, standing, balancing, kneeling, stooping, bending, stretching and reaching in extremely rugged, cotton-field terrain, including walking across ditches and furrows, up and down steep banks, over muddy ground and through loose, shifting sand.
- Working outside in all types of weather, including rain, extreme hot and cold temperatures and fierce, dusty winds.
- Frequently entering and exiting a Foundation vehicle throughout each day.
- Sitting and driving in a normal, seated position for extended periods of time in a vehicle.
- Sitting in a normal, seated position at a computer workstation for extended periods of time.
- Hammering/driving wooden stakes into the ground.
- Using hands to manipulate equipment and plants or to operate a computer workstation.
- Medium work involving lifting 50 lbs. maximum, with frequent lifting and/or carrying of objects weighing up to 25 lbs.
- Distance vision, depth perception and field of vision within normal parameters.
- Hearing ability within normal parameters.

### **Work Environment**

The work environment includes both office and outdoor settings. Hazards in the work environment may involve the following:

- Work in an office environment where the noise level is normally low.
- Travel by vehicle to and from cotton fields and airports.
- Isolated work in remote cotton fields and county roads where noise level is normally low.
- Work at airports where the noise level is usually moderate to very noisy during aircraft takeoff and landing.
- Work with wooden stakes that may split and splinter when hammered.
- Exposure to stinging and biting insects.
- Exposure to poisonous plants, non-poisonous and poisonous snakes and other types of wildlife found in and around cotton fields and farmland, including mice, rats and other types of rodents.
- Possible exposure to chemicals, pesticides or herbicides associated with cotton fields and agriculture.
- Possible exposure to conditions consistent with airports, aircrafts and aerial applicators, including aircraft propellers and aircraft fuel.