

Office of the Texas State Chemist

Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service
445 Agronomy – College Station, TX 77843-2114

Feed & Fertilizer Inspector Position Announcement *Notice of Vacancy #R-054328*

The Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) is actively recruiting Feed and Fertilizer Control Service (FFCS) Inspectors to protect consumers and enhance Texas agribusiness in the areas in and around Houston, TX. As an FFCS Inspector, you'll have the opportunity to train and work in a team environment with experienced field staff, and you'll get to know feed and fertilizer manufacturers, distributors, integrated operators, retailers, producers and consumers as you travel throughout your assigned region to:

- Ensure that feed and fertilizer products are unadulterated and properly labeled;
- Provide effective and uniform administration of the laws and rules within the agency's jurisdiction, specifically Texas Agriculture Code (Chapters 63 and 141) and Rules (Chapters 61, 63, and 65); and
- Promote compliance across the regulated industry through education and enforcement.

You'll play a critical role as our agency's first line of defense to assess feed and fertilizer hazards related to animal and human health and the environment. Your work will include a variety of surveillance and monitoring duties such as visiting and/or calling on firms; examination of product labels; collection of product samples and documentation; performing inspections; conducting investigations related to crop loss and animal death; and compliance and enforcement activities, which often depend upon collaboration with federal and state agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Each year, OTSC oversees registration, compliance, and enforcement activities for more than 20 million tons of feed and fertilizer manufactured and distributed in Texas with a market value approaching \$10 billion. To regulate such a vast and dispersed industry, Inspectors work independently and primarily operate out of a Texas A&M AgriLife Research vehicle and their home office. Inspectors travel approximately two weeks out of each month and are sometimes called upon to work overtime during seasonal feed and fertilizer movement, or in response to an incident. Since the physical work environment requires work both inside and outside in a variety of conditions, Inspectors frequently use safety gear (e.g., hard hats, steel-toe boots, safety glasses, gloves, vests, etc.). They also climb, stretch, work at great heights and carry heavy loads (up to 100 lbs.). You'll also need excellent verbal and written communication skills, computer skills, multi-tasking skills, an eye for detail, as well as the ability to work with diverse groups and solve problems in a professional manner.

As a budgeted employee of the Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC), which operates under Texas A&M AgriLife Research, you'll be eligible to receive benefits such as paid holiday, vacation and sick leave; veteran's services; retirement programs; insurance; and travel expenses. You'll also enjoy opportunities for continued learning and education in the emerging field of Regulatory Science in Food Systems (<http://regsci.tamu.edu>).

This opportunity is perfect for someone with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an agriculture related field, a strong desire to serve the State of Texas, and a willingness to reside/provide surveillance for the following counties: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, San Jacinto. Wages are commensurate with experience.

Application (with résumé and cover letter) may be completed online at <https://agrilifeas.tamu.edu/hr/careers-employment/> (NOV#R-054328). The Office of the Texas State Chemist is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer.