

Expression of Interest

Farm Technician Apprenticeship Content Developer and Instructor

Extended Learning (EL) at the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, believes that learning is a lifelong endeavour in agriculture and aquaculture. Education should be flexible, innovative, and accessible. EL is currently recruiting instructors to help develop and deliver the Nova Scotia Farm Technician Apprenticeship program.

About the Program: The *Nova Scotia Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program* is a newly established Blue Seal trade apprenticeship program. It combines in-class and online training with on-farm mentorship, earning students a Certificate of Qualification in Farm Technician. Extended Learning will deliver the in-class portion of the program.

Key Responsibilities^{1,2}

Program Development (Fall 2022 – early winter 2023)

In accordance with the Occupational and Curriculum Standard for Farm Technician, and working with a course framework established by Extended Learning the instructor will:

- Identify, review and update existing training materials (lectures, activities, and assessments) and create new materials that meet or exceed apprenticeship training standards
- Prepare online lessons and practical training activities
- Incorporate learning materials into the LMS (Brightspace)
- Prepare formative and summative assessments in the LMS
- Coordinate with other subject matter experts to review, revise and finalize training documents
- Work cooperatively with Extended learning team members to ensure project deliverables are achieved
- Work within established development frameworks and course templates

Program Delivery (TBD)

In an online environment, the instructor will lead the equivalent of 5 weeks training for apprentices on topics including: safety, tools, operation and maintenance of farm

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equipment, facility maintenance, crop production (planning, harvest, and storage), general farm management practices, leadership and communication. This work will include:

- Deliver virtual presentations and facilitate online discussions
- Administer and mark student tests and evaluations
- Supervise student learning, activities, and assignments
- Monitor and support student progress
- Record and report grades to NS Apprenticeship Agency
- Identify, coordinate, and engage guest speakers
- Compile and submit required student records

Qualifications:

- Completion of a degree or diploma in Agriculture (Agronomy, Horticulture or Equipment Focus), Agricultural Engineering and/or Red Seal Agricultural Equipment Mechanic (or equivalent training and experience) and/or Blue Seal Farm Technician Apprentice
- 3-5 years teaching experience, preferably in apprenticeship programs, adult education programs, or other form of skills training. Experience delivering training in an online environment preferred.
- 5+ years of relevant on-farm experience that demonstrates experience in the Occupational Standard for Farm Technician.
- Relevant applied and theoretical experience is required in farm safety, crop production, systems, and machinery.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills including supervisory experience.
- Strong judgement, tact and confidentiality are essential.
- Demonstrated time management, attentiveness, and verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work with others from diverse backgrounds and technical skillsets
- Must have access to a reliable vehicle.
- Detail oriented
- Good with file organisation
- Excellent time management
- Works well independently as well as part of a team

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FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE | 23 Sheep Hill Lane, Suite 276 | PO Box 550 | Truro NS B2N 5E3 Canada
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DAL.CA/EXL

Timeline

The timeline for the *Nova Scotia Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program* is under review. Program Development is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2022-Spring 2023, while Program Delivery is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2023.

If you are a Dalhousie Faculty member, Instructor, or Staff Member and meet the above experience please submit your resume and cover letter, including a description of your pesticide application experience and areas of interest to:

Emma Higgins, Program Manager, Extended Learning
extended.learning@dal.ca

Please respond by October 18, 2022.

- 1 Please note that replying to this this Expression of Interest you acknowledge the possibility of potential casual employment with Extended Learning and that this does not represent an active staff vacancy. Roles and responsibilities would depend on the development or teaching opportunity available.
- 2 Extended Learning programs are delivered on a cost recovery model. Without adequate external funding, or course enrollments, programs are cancelled. Instructors in EL programs are not compensated for cancelled programming.

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