Megan Sorensen

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

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Certificates

Professional Pesticide Applicator License

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

03/2024

Skills

Field Plot Research

Experimental Design

Data Analysis • R • PCR

DNA Extraction

Plot Combine Operation

Soil and Tissue Sampling

Laboratory Safety

Technical Writing

Summary

Agricultural Research Technician with 5 years in field plot research and plant pathology labs in southern Idaho. Run potato, sugarbeet and wheat trials from experimental design through harvest, and handle PCR, DNA extraction and data analysis in R for 3 lead scientists.

Experience

Agricultural Research Technician 05/2023 - Present

Magic Valley Crop Research Institute Twin Falls, ID

Nonprofit research station running grower-funded trials on 300 acres.

- Manage **45** field trials a year on potatoes, sugarbeets and wheat, from plot layout and planting to harvest.
- Build experimental design layouts with lead scientists, randomizing 2,400 plots across 4 irrigated sites.
- Analyze yield and quality data in R, producing 30 trial reports a year for grower commissions.
- Operate a plot combine and potato harvester, finishing 98% of plots on schedule over 3 seasons.

Laboratory Technician 06/2021 - 04/2023

Treasure Valley Plant Diagnostics Boise, ID

Private lab testing seed potatoes, plants and soils for pathogens.

- Processed 6,000 tuber and leaf samples a year with DNA extraction and PCR for viruses and bacteria.
- Reduced the retest rate from 8% to 3% by tightening sample labeling and freezer tracking.
- Maintained laboratory safety logs and calibrations for 12 instruments, passing 2 state accreditation audits.

Education

Bachelor of Science 05/2021

University of Idaho Moscow, ID

Plant Science