

# Agriculture Commissioner

\$119,243 - \$165,644 annually



Protecting and promoting agriculture while ensuring the welfare of the public, industry, and the environment.



# The County of Ventura invites your interest for the position of

## Agriculture Commissioner

### The County of Ventura

From rolling hills to sweeping ocean views, Ventura County is located on the “Gold Coast,” approximately 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 30 miles south of Santa Barbara. The near perfect Mediterranean climate with an average annual temperature of 74.2 degrees and a wonderful quality of life are a few of the reasons many of the 802,983 residents call Ventura “home.”

The County’s 1,873 square miles include 1,846 square miles of land with 43 miles of coastline which is home to the following cities and points of interest: Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura as well as national protected areas such as parts of the Angeles National Forest, Channel Islands National Park, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The County of Ventura offers numerous year-round activities ranging from walking on the beach to enjoying a concert in a park or sailing to the Channel Islands or hiking in the Los Padres National Forest. Ventura County is home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, the San Buenaventura Mission, art galleries, and a state-of-the-art Civic Arts Plaza.

Ventura County has a strong economic base that includes major industries such as agriculture, biotechnology, advanced technologies, oil production, military testing and development, and tourism. The County’s most valuable agricultural crop is strawberries, with lemons, raspberries, nursery stock, celery, avocados, tomatoes and peppers following behind. The total value of crops grown in Ventura County is estimated at a gross value of \$2.1 billion annually and is ranked No. 10 among California counties in total crop value. According to the California Department of Conservation’s Farmland Mapping Program, Ventura County contained a total of 316,666 acres of agricultural land. Agriculture is vital to Ventura County as it supports a wide range of other businesses from packinghouses to fuel distributors and manufacturing facilities.

### Agricultural Department

The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is the leader in promoting and protecting agriculture in Ventura County. Working together with Ventura County stakeholders, the Agriculture Commissioner is responsible for building the necessary structures for long term success, identifying challenges as they form, and quickly developing appropriate actions to reach a positive outcome. Excellence of service and continued improvement are integral to the structure and operations of the Department.

Visit the Agricultural Department website at  
<http://www.ventura.org/agricultural-commissioner>

### About the Position

The Agriculture Commissioner is appointed by the County Executive Officer with the concurrence of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to serve a four-year term. The Commissioner serves as the primary local enforcement agent for State agricultural laws and regulations. The position is responsible for overseeing the department of 46 full-time employees. The adopted budget for 2017-18 is 5.4 million annually.

The ideal candidate will be a visionary leader with an extensive background in Agriculture and in management; will possess extensive knowledge of principles, theories, best practices, and techniques of promoting agriculture, farm worker health and safety, the protection of environmental resources, and the assurance of a fair marketplace; will possess current knowledge of pertinent California and federal laws, ordinances, rules and regulations; will possess experience collaborating with a wide variety of professionals and public agencies, including experience making public presentations; and will demonstrate knowledge of principles and practices pertaining to public administration and exhibit an understanding of effective, affordable strategies and program management. A Master’s degree within a related field is highly desirable.

**This is an “AT-WILL” position exempt from the  
“Civil Service”**

## Qualifications

The required education and experience may be obtained by a combination of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in agriculture or the biological sciences and extensive agricultural regulatory experience with a minimum of one year of experience comparable to a Deputy Agricultural Commissioner or Supervising Agricultural Inspector. Possession of a license of eligibility for a County Agricultural Commissioner issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and a California Driver license are also required.

## Typical Duties

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- Determines policies and establishes the organization and procedures for administering and enforcing the assigned provisions of the Agricultural Code and related local laws and regulations.
- Prepares budget estimates and directs departmental operations within the limits of the established budgets.
- Coordinates departmental operations with the State and other counties to obtain uniform enforcement of laws and regulations.
- Coordinates activities of the department with State and Federal officials, agricultural commissioners and executive management of other counties.
- Hires, trains, assigns programs and projects, and evaluates staff.
- Prepares and reviews department records; and makes presentations on the purposes and functions of the department.
- Holds hearings on violations of agricultural rules and regulations and weights and measures laws, and regulations, and determines the need for further hearings or prosecution of violators.
- Attends local and statewide meetings and conferences to exchange information on the most effective means of agricultural enforcement programs and the improvement of agricultural conditions.
- Directs the preparation of periodic reports of the activities of the department and the conditions of agriculture in the County for the State and Board of Supervisors.
- Consults with United States Department of Agriculture, University of California, and agricultural commissioners of other counties for the purpose of becoming informed about new and dangerous agricultural pests, observing and learning new/better methods of pest control, and determining the best and most efficacious methods of conducting the work of the department.

## Compensation and Benefits

Current Annual Base Salary Range:  
\$119,243 - \$165,644 annually

The County offers an attractive compensation and benefits package. In addition to the above base salary, other "cash-like" benefits include up-to a 3% match on your 401(k) contributions. After using a minimum of 80 hours of annual leave during a 12 month period, you may redeem a portion of the accrual annually.

### EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE

Possible eligibility for an educational incentive of 2.5%, 3.5% or 5% based on completion of an AA, BA, or MA degree.

### RETIREMENT/SOCIAL SECURITY

Both the County and you contribute to the County's Retirement Plan. Your contributions vest immediately in your Ventura County Employees Retirement Association (VCERA) account. Defined retirement benefits vest after five (5) years of service. You may establish reciprocity with other public retirement systems such as PERS, if you are eligible. The County and you also each contribute to Social Security.

### HEALTH PLANS

Medical, Dental, and Vision Plans for you and your dependents. A flexible credit allowance of up to \$10,322 annually.

### FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

Increase your spending power by reimbursing you with pre-taxed dollars for IRS approved dependent care and health care expenses.

### EXECUTIVE ANNUAL LEAVE

248 hours earned per year, increasing to 288 hours after 5 years of service, to 328 hours after 10 years of service, and to 368 hours after 15 years of service.



## **AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE/MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT**

Employees have the option of using a County vehicle and gasoline card, or receiving \$575 per month auto allowance and having any mileage driven on County business reimbursed at the standard rate established by the IRS.

## **DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

You may elect to contribute to one or both of the County's deferred compensation plans (established under Internal Revenue Code Sections 401(k) and 457). If you participate in the County sponsored 401(k) plan, the County will match a part of your contribution up to 3% of your salary, on a per pay period basis. You must be regularly scheduled to work 40 hours or more each pay period to participate in the 401(k) plan. These plans enable you to build long-term savings while deferring current federal and state income taxes. In addition to pre-tax contributions, you are also able to make after-tax contributions through the Roth option available in the 457 plan.

## **HOLIDAYS**

10 paid days per year plus a scheduled floating holiday.

## **OTHER BENEFITS**

Other benefits include: Disability Plans, Employee Assistance Program, Life Insurance, Tuition Reimbursement, Benefit Reimbursement Program and a Wellness Program.

Incumbents are also entitled to County-paid membership in professional organizations related to their position.



## **The Process**

To apply for this exceptional and unique career opportunity, please do one of the following:

- E-mail your current resume to:  
Jessica.Ruiz@ventura.org
- Mail a hard copy of your current resume to :  
Jessica Ruiz  
County of Ventura Human Resources  
800 South Victoria Avenue, L-1970  
Ventura CA 93009
- Submit an on-line application at [www.ventura.org/jobs](http://www.ventura.org/jobs) and attach your current resume

First review of resumes is anticipated to be on May 10, 2018. Submissions must include relevant work experience, training and education in order for the reviewer to properly assess qualifications.

Following an evaluation of the resumes, candidates with qualifications deemed to best meet business needs will be invited to a panel interview. The top candidates, as determined by the panel, may be invited to a second interview with the County Executive Officer.

For further information about this recruitment, please, contact Jessica Ruiz by email at [jessica.ruiz@ventura.org](mailto:jessica.ruiz@ventura.org) or by telephone at (805) 654-2419.

