

County Extension Agent Interview Questions

1. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.

2. Name a time when you collected information about soil or field attributes, yield data, or field boundaries, using field data recorders and basic geographic information systems (GIS).

3. What factors do you consider when compiling and analyzing geospatial data to determine agricultural implications of factors such as soil quality, terrain, field productivity, fertilizers, and weather conditions?

4. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

5. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.

6. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.

7. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?

8. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

9. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?

10. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?

11. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

12. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

13. What is the most challenging part of creating, layering, and analyzing maps showing precision agricultural

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data, such as crop yields, soil characteristics, input applications, terrain, drainage patterns, or field management history?

14. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)

15. Describe methods you have found helpful to develop soil sampling grids or identify sampling sites, using geospatial technology, for soil testing on characteristics such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium content, pH, and micronutrients.

16. Walk me through how you would divide agricultural fields into georeferenced zones, based on soil characteristics and production potentials.

17. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?

18. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)

19. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

20. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)

21. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.

22. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

23. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

24. Share your approach to process and analyze data from harvester monitors to develop yield maps.

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25. Describe an experience when you recommended best crop varieties or seeding rates for specific field areas, based on analysis of geospatial data.

26. Tell me how you would apply knowledge of government regulations when making agricultural recommendations.

27. Name a time when you demonstrated the uses and applications of geospatial technology, such as Global Positioning System (GPS), geographic information systems (GIS), automatic tractor guidance systems, variable rate chemical input applicators, surveying equipment, and computer

28. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

29. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.

30. Describe methods you have found effective to analyze remote sensing imagery to identify relationships between soil quality, crop canopy densities, light reflectance, and weather history.

31. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

32. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

33. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.

34. Describe a time when you successfully serviced, repaired, calibrated, or tested a device that operates mainly by electronic principles.

35. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

36. What is the most challenging part of identifying spatial coordinates, using remote sensing and Global Positioning System (GPS) data?

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37. Tell me about the last time you installed, calibrated, or maintained sensors, mechanical controls, GPS-based vehicle guidance systems, or computer settings.

38. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

39. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.

40. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.

41. Walk me through how you would identify areas in need of pesticide treatment by analyzing geospatial data to determine insect movement and damage patterns.

42. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?

43. Share an example when you effectively provided advice on the development or application of better boom spray technology to limit the overapplication of chemicals and to reduce the migration of chemicals to areas other than the fields being treated

44. Tell me the last time you participated in efforts to advance precision agriculture technology, such as developing advanced weed identification or automated spot spraying systems.

45. What is the most challenging part of advising farmers on upgrading Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to take advantage of newly installed advanced satellite technology?

46. Describe an experience in which you successfully controlled the operation of a difficult system. What made you successful?

47. Tell me about a time when you successfully determined the cause of an operating error at your company and solved the problem.

48. Tell me about the last time you performed routine maintenance on equipment. How did you determine

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when and what type of work was needed?