Livestock Market Reporter – Part-time

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Hiring Salary will be commensurate with education and professional experience.

About the State of Indiana

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About The Indiana State Department of Agriculture

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director of ISDA is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor’s Cabinet. The ISDA vision is to be a global leader in innovation and commercialization for food, fuel, and fiber production. For more info click this link: http://www.in.gov/isda/3240.htm

About the Job

This position serves a Part-time Market Reporter for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) covering livestock auctions in northern Indiana. The primary purpose of this position is for the reporter to attend assigned livestock auctions and special sales and assign the official USDA grade to all classes of livestock; collect, analyze and disseminate accurate and unbiased livestock marketing data to members of the agriculture industry in order for them to take advantage of current market trends. Information is prepared to form detailed reports with specific trend and price information. The reports are released to the public via the USDA website. The reporter serves as a representative in Indiana for the USDA, AMS, Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News Division and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

A day in the life

- Collect, analyze, evaluate and disseminate data on marketing conditions for Indiana livestock. Data includes information such as supply, demand, price, quality, condition, movement and grades. Assign official grades to all classes of livestock using descriptions based on USDA grade standards. Establish and maintain contact with a wide range of representatives of trade interests, including producers, wholesalers, buyers, sellers, retailers and processors as well as financial agencies and transportation representatives, to obtain accurate and current market
information. Study daily and seasonal operations as well as market reports from competitive production areas in other areas of the United States, and especially reports from destination markets, in order to analyze and evaluate the significance of data collected from local sources and report findings.

- Prepare and disseminate daily, weekly, monthly, annual and special market reports covering sales at different trading levels. Maintain integrity in operations and accuracy in reports despite pressures and attempted intimidation by financially interested parties. Resolve controversies involving complaints as well as attempts to discredit reported data. Recommend new reporting methods, procedures and techniques as changes in marketing patterns and practices develop.
- Participate in meetings with livestock producers and marketing firms as an expert consultant in assessing and reporting the impact of livestock, the volume of markets, grades and quality and services provided by the Market News programs. Travel periodically to visit with trade contacts, officials, attend training workshops and industry meetings.

What we are looking for

- Thorough knowledge of livestock breeds including beef, dairy, swine, sheep and goats.
- General knowledge of the principals involved in the marketing of livestock.
- Ability to analyze and interpret economic trade and technical data to draw valid conclusions from this material.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with producers and processors, departmental personnel and the general public.
- Ability to assign USDA grade standards to each animal sold.
- Ability to explain to producers the grade placed on animals and answer questions pertaining to grade standards.
- Ability to maintain an Indiana Driver’s License.
- Provide proof of livestock judging/grading experience.
- Cannot be affiliated with any Indiana livestock auctions.

Additional Comments

The work schedule is typically 20-25 hours per week, but may vary depending on the length of each sale. Length of sales can vary from 7 to 12 hours depending on the number of livestock being sold. The employee may be required to work on weekends or an occasional holiday if a sale is scheduled during that time. Note: Locations of primary livestock sales will be Topeka, Boswell, Shipshewana and Rochester, Indiana.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The State of Indiana is an Equal Opportunity Employer.