

**Assistant Professor of Cotton Breeding
Lubbock, Texas**

General Description: Texas A&M AgriLife Research is seeking applications from candidates to lead and manage an ongoing cotton breeding and germplasm evaluation research program. This appointment will be 12 month, non-tenured, 100% Research, administratively located with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock, Texas. The academic appointment will be with the Soil and Crop Sciences Department in College Station, Texas. The incumbent is expected to lead a nationally prominent research program focused on regional needs related to cotton genetic resources in the largest cotton production area in the U. S. with diverse soil types, rain-fed and varying irrigation capabilities, and challenging environmental conditions.

Position Responsibilities: This position is expected to develop an independent cotton breeding and genetics research program while working collaboratively with faculty at the Lubbock Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center and other Centers across the state and on College Station campus. Position responsibilities include the following:

- Develop improved cotton germplasm with attention to agronomic and fiber quality characteristics utilizing techniques and methods to breed for stress resistance (e.g., diseases, insect pests, salt, drought, and heat).
- Identify opportunities to integrate novel molecular and phenotyping technologies into the breeding program.
- Conduct germplasm screening to identify desirable traits and new sources of resistance from global accessions.
- Maintain a critical and extensive cotton cultivar and strains testing program through cooperation with producers, Extension personnel, industry, and the USDA-ARS National Cotton Variety Testing Program.
- Design, establish, and conduct field trials related to cotton breeding and genetics.
- Analyze, interpret, and disseminate research findings in scientific peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Compete aggressively for federal, state, commodity, and other competitive funding in research areas related to cotton breeding and genetics.
- Train and develop graduate students in research areas related to cotton improvement.
- Participate in interdisciplinary teams with faculty in Lubbock, College Station, and other parts of the Texas A&M University System, other Great Plains universities, and federal agencies such as USDA-ARS, as appropriate for planned programs.
- Foster working relationships with agricultural industry and commodity organizations and participate in industry and professional associations.
- Serve on unit, department, agency, university, and other professional committees as appropriate.
- Participate in meetings and conduct research programs at local, state, and national levels.

Administrative Relationships: The position will be supervised directly by the Director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, with evaluation and program reporting to the Soil and Crop Sciences Department Head.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in plant breeding or related disciplines.
- Experience in designing, conducting, and analyzing data from field-based, applied research.
- Experience in securing external funding and producing high quality scholarly publications.
- Commitment to interdisciplinary team-based research.
- Interpersonal skills to establish effective working relationships with staff, faculty, administration, and external stakeholders.

- Knowledge of experimental designs used in cultivar and strains testing.

Preferred Experience:

- Experience and knowledge of traditional and novel methods used in breeding cotton.
- Knowledge and ability to breed cotton for Texas Southern High Plains.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Excellent English oral, written, and electronic communication skills.
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of multidisciplinary teams.
- Ability to communicate effectively with faculty, staff, and stakeholders.
- Ability to multi-task and effectively manage support staff.

Facilities and Equipment Assigned to This Project Include: Greenhouse facility with 12 houses and 6 cold storage units, two-station ginning lab, offices, vehicles, farm machinery and implements, lab equipment, and storage space.

Location:

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Lubbock

Lubbock Center: The Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock is in a semi-arid agricultural region with more than 6 million acres of dryland and irrigated crops. The Lubbock center has 356 acres, which includes office, lab, and greenhouse facilities. Additional farmland is located at Halfway, Lamesa, and Pecos for a total of 1800 acres.

Additional information about Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Lubbock and the Texas A&M University Department of Soil and Crop Sciences can be found at:

Texas A&M AgriLife Research: <https://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/about/who-we-are/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock: <https://lubbock.tamu.edu>

Texas A&M University Department of Soil and Crop Sciences: <https://soilcrop.tamu.edu/>

Closing date for applications: Applications will be reviewed beginning May 1, 2024 and continue until the position is filled. **Date position is available:** September 1, 2024.

Apply online at https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/AgriLife_Research_External/details/Assistant-Professor_R-071843

- Submit cover letter
- CV
- academic transcripts (unofficial)
- statement of research interest
- names and contact information for three references

For more information, please contact: Dr. Wenwei Xu, email wxu@ag.tamu.edu.

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