

Position Field Operations Manager
Timing Immediately
Location Salinas, CA + Seasonal travel (Huron, CA, Santa Maria, CA, Yuma, AZ)

About us and this position

Blue River Technology serves farmers with revolutionary computer-vision based robotics that unlock greater yield potential. Our proprietary systems identify key characteristics about every plant and in less than a second take the precise, appropriate action necessary to maximize yields. We envision a future where “every plant counts” and a farmer can individually care for each plant in their field through the use of robotics. We’ve begun by targeting vegetable crops in California and Arizona, and plan to expand to other crops and regions over the coming years. Our team of more than 50 people come from diverse backgrounds in robotics, computer vision, agriculture and business.



We are looking for an experienced Field Operations Manager to lead our agricultural services operations, which include lettuce thinning and weeding services and customer support activities. We currently have six “lettuce bots” providing a per-acre service in Salinas, CA and Yuma, AZ, setting a new industry standard for crop precision and crop safety. We will expand our fleet to 10-12 units throughout 2017, in addition to supporting a new fleet of grower-owned machines.

The Field Operations Manager reports to the General Manager and is responsible for an Operations team consisting of 10-15 people, and growing: Field Operations Specialists, Field Supervisors, Fleet & Facilities Supervisor, and Quality Assurance Lead. The Field Operations Manager is directly supported by Field Applications Engineers and has access to the company’s Agronomist, Purchasing, Human Resources, IT and Accounting staff.

The individual would be responsible to schedule and oversee day to day operations: hiring, training and supervising of Supervisors and Operators; transportation of equipment; purchasing and handling of agricultural chemicals; interaction with vendors and customers. Desirable candidates should have skills in the areas of Western vegetables agricultural production, employee management, computer usage, DOT regulations, OSHA and safety, vehicle repair and maintenance, tractor and sprayer

setup, maintenance and repair. Candidate should be comfortable working in a farm environment and interacting with farmers and farm employees. Preference given for those with a PCA, CCA, and/or QAL certification. Individual must have a clean driving record, Class A is a plus.

Position description

- Manage the lettuce thinning and weeding operations, where you will be expected to:
 - Supervise tasking and daily work of Field Operations Specialists, Field Supervisors and Field Service Technicians
 - Interface with customers to acquire work, and to align with cultivation schedules
 - Assure that work is being done to the customers satisfaction
 - Assure that work is documented - from prospecting for new customers, to invoicing and collections (if necessary)
- Assure that all agricultural chemicals are properly stored and handled; document and oversee proper training related to chemical handling
- Assist with hiring of new Operations employees
- Partner with HR function to ensure that all labor management tasks (time cards, certification, training, expense approval etc.) of the field team are in good order
- Monitor condition of all equipment (trucks, trailers, tractors, implements) and assure that all are being maintained properly, keeping track of service records and related information
- Monitor condition of Operations-related facilities (i.e. shops and offices), and assure that all are being maintained properly, keeping track of service records and related information
- Interface with R&D staff, advising and consulting on machine requirements and improvements
- Interface with Sales staff and Agronomist to insure our work is effective, efficient, and properly timed
- The position requires a substantial amount of travel in the main lettuce growing regions of the West Coast (Salinas, Huron, Santa Maria and Imperial Valley in CA, and Yuma, AZ)

Qualifications

- Experience managing an agricultural service organization

In addition, the following are a plus:

- Experience working in the California and Arizona produce industry, specifically lettuce and other vegetables
- Bilingual Spanish and English

Please send your resume to careers@bluerivert.com with “Field Operations Manager” in the subject line and a brief explanation of why your interests and background match this position in the message. We will follow up with you within one week of receiving your message. Blue River offers competitive compensation and benefits.