

Careers in Weed Science

Camp Hand: Extension Cotton Specialist at the University of Georgia

Primary duties

The duties of my current job include research and extension activities for cotton agronomy in Georgia. While this is the main focus, I also am the cotton team leader at UGA, which consists of compiling the UGA Cotton Production Guide, planning county meetings, being the liason between the cotton team and the Georgia Cotton Commission, and numerous other activities.

How did you begin working in Weed Science?

I would say there are a couple of things. The first is that my dad works for the agrichemical industry and saw the impact weeds can have on crop production from a very early age. Then when I started college and took my first couple of weed science classes those were the ones I enjoyed the most.

What is exciting about the future of weed science?

I would recommend someone study weed science because, at least in the program I was fortunate to work in, I learned about more than weed science. I learned to produce the crops I worked in, which made me a better agriculturalist. The people I worked under taught me that we were agronomists first, then weed scientists.

Imparting wisdom

A lot of times when I was in graduate school I wondered if it would all be worth it. The stress of making good grades, getting publications, competing at regional and national weed science competitions, etc. takes its toll! But it definitely is. It made me a better person and a better scientist, and looking back I wouldn't trade any of it for anything.

The biggest advice I would give to students searching for a job is to keep an open mind. I have been fortunate to stay close to home, and accept a job where I got my Ph.D. However, that will not be the case for everyone. Be willing to move and experience something different than what you are used to.

Have fun in graduate school! Do everything to the best of your ability, but have fun while you do it



Education

B.S. Auburn University

M.S. Auburn University

Ph.D. University of Georgia

Involvement in Professional Societies

The main ones I have been involved in are the Southern Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of America. In the WSSA I was the first ever social media chair for the graduate student organization, which also provided opportunities to be on a couple of the standing committees as well.

What do you love about your job?

My favorite thing about this job so far is the camaraderie among the other members of the cotton team, and then of course the interactions with county agents and growers in Georgia.

Other interests?

I enjoy gardening and working in the yard, and when I can, I love to duck hunt.

Find Camp on LinkedIn and Twitter or email him at camphand@uga.edu