



**1111 Fishhook Park Rd. Prescott, WA**

## **Postharvest Quality Control Manager**

**Announcement:** Seeking an experienced technician/team leader to help implement the company's postharvest apple program. The Postharvest QC Manager will lead a team responsible to protect fruit quality from storage through shipment. The ideal candidate will have experience developing and implementing season-long storage plans for both conventional and organic apples. The manager must be a strong team player, excellent communicator, well organized, and capable of working across multiple departments. The Postharvest Quality Control Manager will be expected to have working knowledge of packing grades, apple diseases and disorders, and maturity indexes. Must be proficient in English, being bilingual is a plus. This is a full-time position located near Prescott, Washington.

## **Job Description – Postharvest Quality Control - Practices**

FirstFruits Farms LLC is one of the largest tree fruit companies in Washington State – growing, packing, shipping, and marketing over 6 million boxes of apples a year. FirstFruits Farms LLC pursues a socially responsible business agenda, promoting social, and economic development opportunities for all of its employees and families.

FirstFruits Farms has developed a successful apple storage program for its broad manifest of organic and conventional apple varieties. The Postharvest Quality Control Manager will coordinate and implement the technical postharvest process. A successful postharvest program utilizes best management practices that sustains fruit quality, generates economical pack outs, and limits storage decay and disorders.

The Postharvest Quality Control Manager will lead a team responsible for monitoring storage conditions, tracking storage results, evaluating postharvest treatments and assessing the effectiveness of the team's performance and program.

This position works in close concert with other departments such as production, shipping and sales and marketing. This position will report directly to FirstFruits Farms CEO/President.

## **Primary Responsibilities:**

Primary responsibilities include managing and coordinating the various activities of the Postharvest Quality Team, including:

- Develop and implement an annual postharvest storage plan that maintains fruit quality throughout the storage term and supports key objectives outlined in the company's packing plan and sales plan
- Utilize best management practices to evaluate and monitor fruit condition throughout the entire postharvest process, from receiving to shipping
- Manage and coordinate the activities of the Postharvest Management Quality Control Team, while assisting the team to meet organizational goals and objectives
- Help manage the department budget, tracking costs, and evaluating return-on-investment metrics

- Help coordinate the postharvest/production meetings to finalize weekly CA Room openings pack schedules
- Help monitor controlled-atmosphere conditions for all varieties throughout the storage process
- Coordinate a fruit sampling program to monitor fruit condition during the storage process
- Produce an annual report, evaluating storage regime outcomes, strengths, weaknesses and necessary changes and adjustments
- Develop and implement necessary protocols to qualify fruit for export to Mexico, Taiwan and China
- Manage all necessary record keeping and reporting systems
- Work with sales office to help manage aged inventories, and settle trouble reports
- Help identify strategies, methods and systems to streamline processes and reduce operating costs
- Work with CEO/President to identify and implement processes aimed at improving communication, efficiency, productivity and operational results
- Assist in the training and development of employees, including performance evaluation and discipline
- Support the company's worker safety program and assist in the goal to reduce accidents and injuries
- Assist in the implementation of the company's audited food safety, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship programs
- Work with CEO/President on an annual basis to outline strategies for selecting postharvest, packing and sanitation chemicals
- Maintain, update, and utilize a Process Safety Management plan for the safe operation of an ammonia refrigeration system

#### **Desired Qualifications:**

- Any combination of relevant education and/or tree-fruit experience; At least five-years of experience working in tree fruit and leading teams is highly preferred
- Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to work as a contributing team member in a team environment
- Familiar with Project Safety Management and Risk Management plans as they relate to the safe operation of an ammonia refrigeration system
- Excellent organizational and communication skills – This is a key position requiring a consistent and persistent approach with people, processes, and systems
- Ability to set goals and priorities and then work to implement them successfully
- Ability to track trends, evaluate results and develop strategic reports that assist in making informed, solutions-based decisions
- Technical skills related to utilizing the Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, and Outlook
- Must have a great attitude and a willingness to step outside of job title
- Ability to train, coach, motivate and discipline employees
- Must be able to write and communicate in English, being bilingual is a plus
- Some travel is required
- A valid Washington State Driver's License

\* The specific job responsibilities and duties may shift and change over time depending on circumstances. The employee will need to be aware and supportive of this evolving process.

**Benefits:**

- Competitive salary (DOE)
- Paid time off – vacation, sick, and holidays
- Medical, dental, vision, long term disability, life insurance, & Aflac are all available with FirstFruits paying a significant portion of the monthly premium (varies on the type of insurance and level of coverage)
- Onsite medical clinic and daycare
- 401(k) retirement plan with company matching contributions

If you are ready to start your career with the leader in the Washington apple industry, please send us an email and tell us why you are interested in this opportunity. Resumes can be emailed to [jobs@firstfruits.com](mailto:jobs@firstfruits.com)