Essentially, this position is more accurately described as Project Coordinator than with the current title of Researcher. Most likely, Project Coordinator is the title that ought have been sought when the original request for classification was prepared and submitted.

However, one key difference between this description and that for most Researcher positions is that the project leaders hiring for this position would like to be able to consider outstanding Master's level candidates, whereas incumbents to Researcher positions most often are required to have earned a Ph.D.

The current description is practically identical to the description submitted when this position was created during the autumn of 2000, and is copied here:

**ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Departments of Plant Pathology and Horticulture seek a full-time project coordinator to conduct and coordinate research, extension, and education initiatives associated with the need to transition from methyl bromide as a soil fumigant. The incumbent will be expected to conduct research to develop chemical- and biological-based systems as alternatives to MB-based production systems. Research emphasis will include investigations of soilborne plant pathogens such as genetic or molecular characterization of pathogen populations, epidemiology, or alternative management practices. The incumbent will also coordinate a multi-disciplinary team of faculty, their technicians and other associated personnel from four States in Southeastern USA. Personnel coordination will occur through regular meetings of Principal Investigator's and primary cooperators. The incumbent will also coordinate with strawberry and vegetable grower groups and other stakeholders to address industry and societal concerns associated with the methyl bromide transition process.

**PERIPHERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:** Incident to the effective discharge of the essential responsibilities enumerated above, the incumbent will play a role in mentoring graduate students, training and supervising hourly workers, and instructing and directing technical staff from multiple research and extension units. Also, the incumbent will have primary responsibility for reporting progress on the project and seeking new opportunities related to the research.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** An M.S. degree in horticulture, plant pathology or a closely allied discipline augmented by or including hands-on experience, training and research in plant pathology is required; PhD preferred.

The only other appreciable difference between this description and the earlier description of this position is an increased emphasis on the requirement that the incumbent demonstrate experience in plant pathology in addition to an advanced degree earned in one of a few closely allied life and agricultural sciences.

Finally, in support of this change, correspondence with growers' groups, stakeholders and field faculty often identified the incumbent whom is vacating the position as "Methyl Bromide Alternatives Project Coordinator." So, it makes some sense to harmonize this informal title with the official title.