

USDA APHIS  
 United States Department of Agriculture  
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
 Program Aid No. 1092

## Leading the Charge To Safeguard Animal Agriculture

The employees of the Veterinary Services (VS) program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are responsible for safeguarding animal agriculture in the United States. VS' diverse workforce of veterinarians, microbiologists, virologists, epidemiologists, economists, statisticians, management analysts, and practitioners in other specialized disciplines is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing animal health. A sharp increase in global commerce and travel means that VS is facing greater challenges than ever in accomplishing its mission: protecting and improving the health, quality, and marketability of the Nation's agricultural animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics.

VS accomplishes its mission by practicing preventive veterinary medicine on a broad scale and by controlling or eliminating animal diseases. VS deals with animal health issues of State, regional, national, and international importance. If a foreign animal disease is introduced into the United States, it can greatly damage not only our farm economy but the larger U.S. economy as well, and cost billions of dollars to eradicate. That is why VS employees are a part of the first line of defense against the establishment and spread of foreign animal diseases, as well as a force for the rapid elimination of certain domestic diseases when they do occur.

### Find Out More

We encourage all interested individuals to apply for positions in VS, including veterans, people with disabilities, and surplus or displaced Federal employees. For more information about careers with VS, visit our Web site at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health) and click on Find Your Career With VS for current vacancy announcements.

*Cover photo credits:* **Top**, USDA photo by Ken Hammond. **Row 2**, left to right, APHIS photo by R. Anson Eaglin, USDA photo by Bob Nichols, APHIS photo by Mr. Eaglin. **Row 3**, Norman Watkins and Mr. Eaglin. **Row 4**, Norman Watkins and APHIS file photo.



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## Your Career in Veterinary Services Safeguarding U.S. Animal Health

## Your Career in Veterinary Services

Do you want a career that can make a difference? If you are interested in joining an organization that can have an impact on the health of animal agriculture and you are looking for exciting career paths that offer challenges and rewards, potential and growth, stability, and job satisfaction, VS has opportunities for you to consider.

As a VS employee, you will be part of an organization with a multidisciplinary approach to managing diseases, responding to animal health crises, addressing trade issues, providing laboratory support, regulating veterinary biologics, and analyzing animal health issues.

### Key positions include

- Veterinarians involved in many aspects of animal health, import–export, training, emergency preparedness, and veterinary field and laboratory work;
- Epidemiologists, entomologists, and microbiologists;
- Animal health technicians and veterinary program assistants; and
- Budget and management analysts, technical writers, and computer specialists.

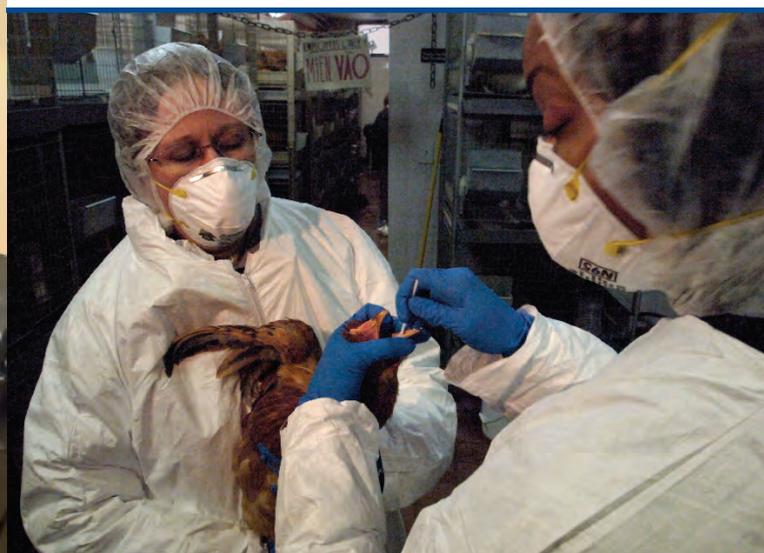
Having a wealth of talented people in our organization is critical for our continued excellence in today's fast-paced and increasingly complex scientific world.



### Geographic Diversity

VS headquarters is in Riverdale, MD, near Washington, DC. Centered here are the National Animal Health Policy and Program staff (which initiates and coordinates national certification and eradication programs) and VS' National Center for Import and Export (which establishes procedures for importing and exporting animals and animal products), as well as the National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management and Diagnostics (which coordinates efforts to prepare for and respond to foreign animal disease outbreaks).

Our field operations are centered at APHIS' Eastern Region hub in Raleigh, NC, and its Western Region hub in Fort Collins, CO. Some of our most essential work is done from the area offices servicing every State in the United States, as well as U.S. territories. Staff members at these area offices are responsible for conducting disease investigations; assisting the public with import and export requirements; performing monitoring, surveillance, and disease-eradication work; and serving as liaisons with other government agencies and private-industry groups. Field staff members respond to emergencies as well.



Also located in Fort Collins is the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health. Its staff is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating animal health information to producers, scientists, policymakers, and consumers.

VS laboratory facilities are based in Ames, IA, and Plum Island, NY. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) serve as national and international reference laboratories, providing other diagnostic laboratories with reagents, animal disease information, and technical guidance. NVSL specialists also perform laboratory testing for VS. The Center for Veterinary Biologics, also in Ames, ensures that veterinary biologics (the materials used for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases) are pure, safe, potent, and effective.



### Take the First Step

If you are ready to become an integral part of safeguarding our Nation's agricultural economy and animal health, join us in Veterinary Services. As a VS employee, you would enjoy a career path that has competitive salaries, flexible hours, a supportive and innovative work environment, and travel opportunities.

### Outstanding benefits include

- Competitive starting pay with regular increases, including locality pay and career ladders where applicable;
- Advancement opportunities;
- Family-friendly work and leave policies;
- Flexible work schedules;
- Ten paid Federal holidays and paid vacation leave;
- Opportunities for recognition and awards;
- Comprehensive medical benefits;
- Health, wellness, and fitness programs;
- Paid medical leave;
- Affordable health and life insurance;
- Domestic and international travel opportunities;
- Attractive retirement benefits and pension plan; and the
- Thrift Savings Plan (where VS matches a portion of your contributions to a 401K-type program).

To qualify for employment with APHIS–VS, you must be a U.S. citizen.

