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Our communities

When an animal health emergency occurs, an immediate response is necessary to protect both animals and people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will look to many sources to obtain veterinary personnel to help meet critical staffing needs during such an emergency.

In 2001, APHIS established the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) to respond to exotic disease outbreaks and other disasters that affect livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife. More veterinarians are urgently needed to assure a decisive response to any potential animal health crises.

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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This publication supersedes Program Aid No. 1748, "National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps: You Can Make a Difference," which was published in July 2003.

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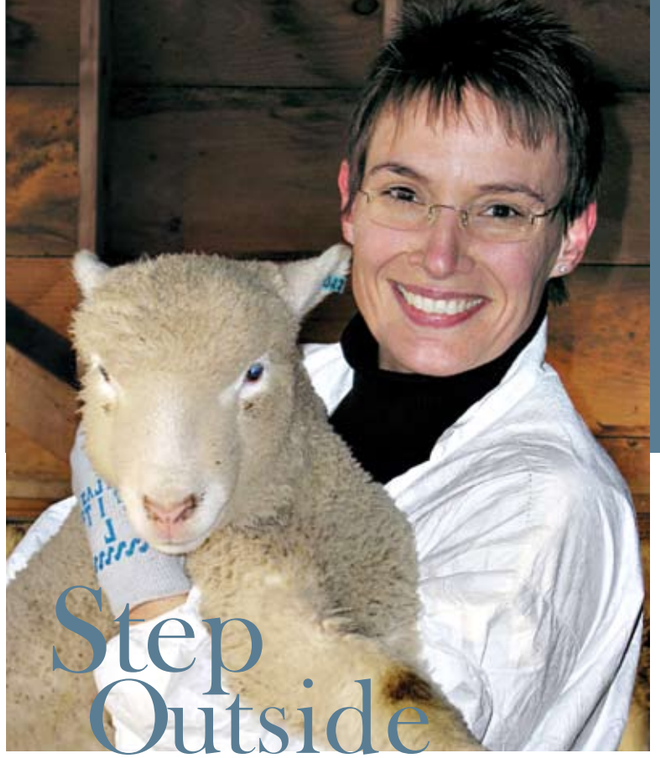


Step Outside the Ordinary

National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps

Join | Travel | Explore

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 1940–1

Pro

Our animals

National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) volunteers:

- Protect U.S. agriculture
- Help animals in need
- Expand their career options
- Network within the veterinary community
- Learn emergency response procedures

Contact Us

http://naherc.aphis.usda.gov
NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov
(301) 851-3595

Step Into a Rewarding World of

Adventure, Challenge, and Service

Over the past several years, NAHERC volunteers have assisted with the foot-and-mouth disease eradication effort in the United Kingdom, the outbreak of low-pathogenic avian influenza in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and the exotic Newcastle disease response in southern California. As a NAHERC volunteer, you'll experience the rewards of serving your country by helping protect our communities and the U.S. food supply.

Make a difference.
Become a NAHERC volunteer today!

Q. Who is eligible?

A. Veterinarians with a valid U.S. veterinary diploma from an accredited program.

Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinary Technicians with a diploma and/or equivalent experience.

Eligibility of other veterinary and laboratory personnel will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

All selectees must be U.S. citizens.

Q. How long are tours?

A. Generally between 21 and 30 days.

Q. Will I be paid?

A. Yes, you will become a temporary USDA–APHIS employee. You also have the right to refuse assignments. Travel and lodging costs are reimbursed; overtime pay is guaranteed, and workman's compensation is provided.

Federal salaries are determined annually in a system called the General Schedule (GS). NAHERC veterinarians receive the salary rate of GS 11, step 1, employees in the Federal civil service. AHTs qualified at the highest level are paid at the GS 7, step 1, salary rate.

For more salary details, visit <http://www.opm.gov/oca/07tables/html/gs.asp>.

Q. How many days per year can I serve as a volunteer?

A. Veterinarians can serve multiple tours up to a full year. AHTs can serve multiple tours up to 221 days per year.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Go to http://www.usajobs.opm.gov and, under "Search Jobs," enter the keyword "NAHERC." Select either the Veterinarian or AHT job announcement.

Follow instructions and enter a short résumé. To get help with this process, you will find contact information at the end of the job announcement.

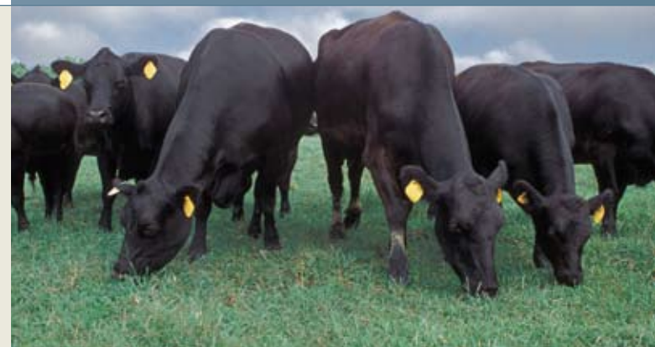
Fax or mail a copy of your veterinary credentials to the address provided. For more details or assistance, contact the NAHERC Program Coordinator at <NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov>.

Q. What if I have more questions?

A. Call the NAHERC Program Coordinator at (301) 851-3595 or send an e-mail to <NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov>.

"You are really able to put your skills to the test to help control potentially devastating diseases…the kind of outbreaks you read about in history books."

—Dr. Jane Ridky
U.S. National Guard veterinary homeland defense officer and NAHERC volunteer

NAHERC volunteer Dr. Jane Ridky worked in APHIS' cooperative effort to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom and again in the agency's effort to control exotic Newcastle disease in California.

"NAHERC provides great opportunities to do things you don't normally do as a vet…to travel…and act as liaison between USDA and farm owners."