TRAINING COURSES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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Courses that are lined out (example) have been cancelled in FY2019.
Animal Handling and Farm Safety
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to equip Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO’s) and Animal Health Technicians (AHT’s), who are involved with handling livestock animals in the field with the basic information and skills they need to fulfill their job responsibilities. Those skills and responsibilities include performing proper animal handling techniques of cattle, birds, swine and small ruminants for examinations and performing procedures.

At the conclusion of this training, participants will be able to understand proper restraint, swabbing, blood collection and euthanasia techniques for birds, swine, cattle and small ruminants.

Target Audience:  Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO’s) and Animal Health Technicians (AHT’s), who are involved with handling livestock animals in the field

Cost:  Travel costs only

Contact:  Dr. Teresa Drotar  |  970-494-7104  
Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Selection:  Participants for this course are selected by the District and Service Center Directors.
Animal Health 101
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:
Animal Health 101 introduces administrative staff to basic concepts in animal biology, veterinary medicine, infectious disease, as well as Veterinary Services (VS) Program and transboundary animal diseases. The training places special emphasis on the role Veterinary Services plays in safeguarding the health of our nation’s production animals. By focusing on basic concepts, administrative and support personnel obtain a functional knowledge of animal health and disease, and how this relates directly to their duties.

By the conclusion of the training, participants can:
1. Identify the major food animals produced in the United States, and relate each of these species to relatives found in the wild in the North American continent and/or distant geographical locales.
2. Identify and discuss major groups of disease-causing agents, and their various modes of transmission.
3. Describe models of food animal care in the United States.
4. List and discuss the majority of endemic diseases Veterinary Services is working to eradicate from or control in the United States.
5. List and discuss some of the major transboundary animal diseases Veterinary Services works to keep out of the United States.
6. Describe how every role in VS contributes an important part in monitoring and surveillance, as well as in control and eradication programs.
7. Discuss the important role of food production animals to the wellbeing of the United States economy and public health infrastructure.
8. Better appreciate their individual contribution and important role in fulfilling Veterinary Services’ mission.

Target Audience: This course has been developed for VS administrative and support staff who have not received extensive training in animal biology or veterinary sciences.

Animal Health 101 is designed to be a locally offered course to decrease associated travel costs. If there is sufficient interest within a District/Service Center, please contact Dr. Teresa Drotar to discuss holding a local session.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104 | Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: 30 seats are available for each session. If more than 30 nominations are forwarded, the seats will be filled based on the date the application/nomination was received.

Deadline: One month prior to start date.
Aquatic Foreign and Emerging Diseases Training
Prioritized Registration

**Course Purpose:**

To properly train Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Diagnosticians/VMOs to conduct FAD investigations when an OIE listed Aquatic pathogen considered exotic to US production systems is suspected; train FADDs on appropriate personal protective equipment, necropsy techniques, diagnostic sampling, shipping of diagnostic samples, and VS Guidance documents 12001 (Policy for the Investigation of Potential Foreign Animal Disease/Emerging Disease Incident).

This course will empower participants with the skills to rapidly assess and handle a suspected incursion of Transboundary Aquatic Animal disease from different regions of the country or world. Participants will perform at least one mock investigation in a realistic setting; observe clinical animals and perform necropsy in a controlled setting.

**Target Audience:** Aquaculture VMOs

**Cost:** Travel costs only

**Contact:** Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov

**Application/Nomination:** The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

**Selection:** Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the Aquaculture SMEs.
Area Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Response Training (FADDRT)

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

1. Provide low cost, local FADD continuing education

2. To provide a forum where experienced FADDs can share and pass on their institutional knowledge based on their experiences as a state or federal field Veterinary Medical Officers

3. To discuss FAD response in lessons learned and projected opportunities

4. To receive the latest information from NVSL, FADDL and NCAHEM

Target Audience: Previously trained Federal and State FADDs as well AHTs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contacts:

Harrisburg, PA: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov

TBD: Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov

Lincoln, NE: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: District and Service Center Directors submit nominations.
Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
To give our front-line employees the knowledge and skills they need to effectively combat Tuberculosis and other Cattle Health issues.

- Discuss current state of TB and other cattle Health Diseases including the latest tools available for fighting TB.
- Form collaborative relationships with states and other Federal stakeholders.
- Create strategies to effectively carry forth our mission with respect to TB and other Cattle Health Issues.

Target Audience: State and Federal Veterinary Medical Officers and TB Epidemiologists

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Robert Dickens | 919-855-7171
Robert.C.Dickens@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Selections will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Brucellosis Diagnosis and Surveillance Training

Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
The purpose of this training is to teach Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) in the western states about Brucellosis, how cases are treated and the follow up required if a positive case is reported.

1) Teach the disease basics of the brucellosis organism and the disease.
2) Participants will be familiar with eradication procedures for Brucellosis.
3) Participants will work through scenarios to reinforce procedures around follow up of a case.
4) Participants will understand what tissues should be used for diagnosis of the disease.
5) Participants will review charts and classification of the disease.
6) Federal and State officials will have the opportunity to interact and coordinate Brucellosis strategies.

Target Audience: VMOs who will be responsible for conducting surveillance activities for Brucellosis.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Case Manager Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
Prepares individuals for the duties associated with being a Case Manager. The Case Manager reports to the Operations Section Chief or the Disease Management Branch Director, and serves as the liaison and single point of contact with the owner/producer of a single or multiple infected premises. They are a source of information for the owner/producer, and help coordinate such things as depopulation and disposal, options for virus elimination and environmental sampling. Case Managers monitor, report the processes and help with issues that develop on the infected premises from the time of known infection until the quarantine is released. They work with field reimbursement specialists, contracting officer representatives, and site managers. In the event there is no site manager, they perform site evaluations and establish biosecurity.

Target Audience: VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) and Import Field Activities Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
The course purpose is to train regulatory veterinarians about the detection and prevention of CEM in breeding horses and to update regulatory veterinarians and CEM Center Managers on diseases and activities of importance in imported horses.

1. The field veterinarians will learn the scientific background necessary to fulfill the regulatory requirements of the CEM program.
2. The participants will learn the skills required to perform diagnostic testing on live mares and stallions required in the CEM program.

Target Audience: Regulatory veterinarians working with horses.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.K.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Domestic Poultry Field Training
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to acquaint regulatory veterinarians and animal health technicians with the various aspects of the US poultry industry and practices associated with a poultry disease outbreak.

Participants will learn aspects of basic broiler production, husbandry, animal welfare, poultry industry organization, biosecurity principles for commercial and hobby poultry, safety principles, disposal challenges, AI surveillance and international implications associated with an outbreak of AI in the US. Attendees will also participate in hands-on laboratories for necropsy, personal protective equipment and visit a production broiler farm.

Target Audience: SPRS regulatory Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO’s) and Animal Health Technicians (AHT’s)

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. 30 seats are available for this course.
Emergency Coordinator Skills Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The VS Emergency Coordinator (EC) training supports the application of emergency management principles to improve animal and public health. This training will demonstrate and cover the necessary skills and knowledge that each EC need to succeed in his or her current position.

This training will empower an EC to:
1. Review lessons learned from recent disease outbreaks and responses to further develop planning, preparations and response capabilities in their respective states and Districts. Develop “best practices” for coordinating, documenting, tracking, reporting and developing emergency response capabilities among responders in the districts and states.
2. Collaborate across business units and with external stakeholders to identify gaps.
3. Improve skills in negotiation, persuasion and risk communication with stakeholders.
4. Develop tools for brainstorming, planning and executing workshops or exercises in Districts, including guidance on hot washes and After Action Reporting.

Target Audience: Emergency Coordinators

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS)
Advanced Tracing
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:

EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed to prepare field staff to use EMRS for document tracing activities.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS to manage tracing and movement activities for animal disease outbreaks. The course will cover an overview of tracing, preparing tracing information to facilitate entry into EMRS, prerequisites to tracing in EMRS, trace flow, tracing animals with identification, tracing animals without identification, and tracing non-animal items.

Target Audience: Field staff with basic EMRS skills and a need to manage tracing in EMRS

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS)
Documentation for Disease and Resource Management
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:

EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed for EMRS Data Entry personnel and IMT Documentation Unit Leaders.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to manage information at an incident, navigate in EMRS, perform data entry in EMRS for both Disease Management and Resource Management and implement standardization of data entry.

Target Audience: EMRS Data Entry personnel and IMT Documentation Unit Leaders

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) for Epidemiologists and Disease Reporting Officers
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:

EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed to prepare Epidemiologists and Disease Reporting Officers to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident to manage disease activities including lab results, premises statuses, appraisal, euthanasia and disposal, cleaning and disinfection, environmental sampling, restocking, biosecurity and safety inspections, tracing, and permitting.

Target Audience: EMRS Epidemiologists and Disease Reporting Officers

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) for IMT Logistics and Resource Unit Personnel

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:
EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed to prepare Incident Management Team Logistics and Resource Unit Personnel to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident to manage resource activities, including supply & personnel ordering, fleet management, and property management.

Target Audience: IMT Logistics and Resource Unit Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Participants are IMT Logistics Section and Resource Unit Personnel

Selection: Participants are IMT Logistics Section and Resource Unit Personnel
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) for VS IMT Operations Personnel

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed to prepare Incident Management Teams Operations Personnel to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident to manage disease activities, including mapping and data retrieval for appraisals, euthanasia and disposal, cleaning and disinfection, environmental sampling, restocking, investigation tasks, backyard surveillance, resource management, and permitting.

Target Audience: IMT Operations Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Participants are IMT Operations Section Personnel

Selection: Participants are IMT Operations Section Personnel
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) for Staff Officers

Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed to prepare VS staff officers to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS to retrieve and interpret data, and produce reports.

Target Audience: Commodity Staff and CEAH Analysts

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) for State Incident Management Teams

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

EMRS is a web-based information system designed to automate and manage data related to all aspects of an animal disease outbreak or animal-associated disaster. This course is designed to prepare state Incident Management Team personnel to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident to manage disease activities, including mapping and data retrieval for appraisals, euthanasia and disposal, cleaning and disinfection, environmental sampling, restocking, investigation tasks, backyard surveillance, resource management, and permitting.

Target Audience: State Incident Management Team Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Participants are State Incident Management Team Personnel

Selection: Participants are State Incident Management Team Personnel
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) Training Network
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) Training Network leverages training resources and provides local training support for EMRS. This course provides technical and training delivery training for individuals who are EMRS Network Associates.

EMRS Network Associates will provide training to end users of EMRS. This training will equip EMRS Network Associates with the knowledge and skills they need to provide effective and consistent training to end users. This course focuses on both how to use EMRS and how to deliver effective EMRS training. Participants are provided with training resources to use with end users.

Target Audience: EMRS Network Associates

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: Participants for this course are EMRS Network Associates

Selection: Participants for this course are EMRS Network Associates
Epidemiology and Disease Management for State Animal Health Officials and VS Managers

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of disease of regulatory interest for VS Managers, SAHOs and administration personnel.

This course will include a review of diseases of regulatory interest to understand the basis of the diseases, species affected, risk for spread or impacts to commerce, diagnostic options and current control strategies. A best practice manual will be provided for SAHOs that includes SMEs, staff and where to find information needed in the event of an outbreak.

Target Audience: Federal and State VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contacts: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov
Federal Select Agent Program Joint Inspector Training
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:
The purpose of this course is to provide updates and changes to the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) to the staff responsible for inspecting entities registered in the FSAP. The course also allows field staff to interact and to share inspection experiences in order to determine appropriate regulatory interpretation.

Target Audience: Federal Select Agent Program Inspection Staff

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Wendy Lehman | 301-851-3443
Wendy.J.Lehman@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Participants are FSAP Inspection Staff

Selection: Participants for this course are selected by the FSAP Program Directors.
Federal Select Agent Program Responsible Official Workshop
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The primary purpose of this course is to update responsible laboratory officials who are registered with the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) on changes to regulations, new guidance materials, and provide interaction between registered entities. The course objective is to apply new guidance to the FSAP and to provide an open forum for discussion on updates and program regulations.

Target Audience:  Federal Select Agent Program Responsible Officials

Cost:  Travel costs only

Contact:  Dr. Wendy Lehman | 301-851-3443
Wendy.J.Lehman@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination:  The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection:  This course is for Federal Select Agent Program Responsible Officials and applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selections will be made by the FSAP Program Directors.
Field Inspection Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
The Field Inspection Training has been designed to improve the market inspection process. Learning objectives to be covered include:

1) Slaughter plant and livestock market facilities and Veterinary Services’ regulations, duties and authority within these facilities
2) Foreign Animal Disease symptoms recognition and the appropriate response to a suspected disease
3) Federal regulations and standards established for interstate movement of animals and the Animal Disease Traceability final rule
4) Strategies for communicating with stakeholders regarding animal health issues and regulations
5) Developing tools and strategies to improve and standardize the slaughter plant and market inspection process
6) Monitoring compliance and determining when enforcement action is needed

Target Audience: AICs and AHTs directly involved in Livestock Market Inspections may also apply.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Robert Dickens 919-855-7171
Robert.C.Dickens@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Course
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The training provided in the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) Course is fundamental in developing a knowledgeable and highly functional field staff in the event of a foreign animal or emerging disease outbreak. Trained federal and state veterinarians ensure that our field staff has the information and skills required to assist in an animal health emergency. A foreign animal disease outbreak, either intentional or unintentional would have a severe impact on our nation’s economy.

The course will provide knowledge of clinical symptoms and gross pathology of 11 foreign animal diseases of the US and other domestic animal disease for which a differential diagnosis should be made. Provide knowledge of laboratory diagnostic procedures and specimens required for confirmation of the disease in question. Provide information on trade related issues and how trade is impacted by these diseases worldwide. Provide information on research being conducted or planned. Stimulate interest in technical literature pertaining to foreign animal diseases. Provide information and tabletop exercise for foreign animal disease investigation and sample collection.

Target Audience: APHIS Field VMOs, state and military veterinarians.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Training – Plum Island
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The training provided in the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) Training - Plum Island is fundamental in developing a knowledgeable and highly functional field staff in the event of a foreign animal or emerging disease outbreak. Trained federal and state veterinarians ensure that our field staff has the information and skills required to assist in an animal health emergency. A foreign animal disease outbreak, either intentional or unintentional would have a severe impact on our nation’s economy.

The course will provide knowledge of clinical symptoms and gross pathology of foreign animal diseases of the US and other domestic animal disease for which a differential diagnosis should be made. Provide knowledge of laboratory diagnostic procedures and specimens required for confirmation of the disease in question. Provide information on trade related issues and how trade is impacted by these diseases worldwide. Provide information on research being conducted or planned. Stimulate interest in technical literature pertaining to foreign animal diseases. Provide information and tabletop exercise for foreign animal disease investigation and sample collection.

Target Audience: APHIS Field VMOs, and state veterinarians - prioritized for participants who have attended the one week course in Ames.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Individuals will be chosen from those who have already completed the 1 week FADD Training in Ames, Iowa.
Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Refresher (FADIR)
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

General concern about the introduction of foreign animal disease has increased since September 11, 2001, with the threat of intentional disruption to the US agriculture at the forefront of that concern. Veterinary medical officers and Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) identified by VS utilize the FADIR training to remain prepared for such agricultural emergencies. This training better prepares the veterinarians available to respond to an agriculture emergency. The course is held in conjunction with the FADD School held on Plum Island with lectures being sent to the FADIR course via video teleconference (VTC).

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

1. Recognize clinical signs and lesions, identify the species affected and draw upon knowledge of the causative agent of the foreign animal diseases discussed or demonstrated.

2. Recognize clinical lesions, identify the species affected and draw upon knowledge of the causative agent of other diseases which may be confused with the diseases of interest.

3. Recognize when and how vectors may be involved in the transmission of foreign animal diseases and vector control.

Target Audience: Field VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Import Export Training for New Hires
Pre-Selected Registration

**Course Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce people who are new to positions in NIES to practices and procedures that are important to the job. This course will also convey the latest subject matter regarding the importation and exportation of live animals and animal products.

Topics may include pets, export audits, certificates, user fees, inspection guidelines, country specific issues, and other relevant subjects. A significant amount of time has been scheduled for information sharing between presenters and participants.

Participants for this course are pre-selected and will be notified that they have been invited to attend.

**Target Audience:** Import/Export Veterinary Medical Officers, Export Document Examiners and Veterinary Program Assistants

**Cost:** Travel Costs only

**Contact:** Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

**Selection:** Participants for this course are selected by the Service Center and Port Directors.
Import Export Training for VMOs
Pre-Selected Registration

**Course Purpose:**

The course is designed to increase and improve communications between and import/export field staff, import/export coordinators, and NIES staff at headquarters. The purpose is also an opportunity as well to convey the latest subject matter regarding the importation and exportation of live animals and animal products.

Topics will include pets, aquaculture, export audits, certificates, user fees, inspection guidelines, European Union issues, and other relevant topics. A significant amount of time has been scheduled for information sharing between presenters and participants.

Participants for this course are pre-selected and will be notified that they have been invited to attend.

**Target Audience:** Import/Export Administrative Officers and Export document Examiners

**Cost:** Travel costs only

**Contact:** Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

**Selection:** Participants for this course are selected by the Service Center and Port Directors.
Industry Training for Inspectors of Export Facilities
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:
This course focuses on the common industry practices at facilities that export animal products. Classroom time will cover lessons on the manufacturing of various products for export given by industry representatives and a tour of a facility type covered.

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the process of how selected animal products are typically manufactured.
2. Explain how the selected animal products industries work.
3. Evaluate the impact of USDA regulations on the selected animal products industries and their ability to trade.
4. Describe industry’s perspective of the approval process.
5. Explain how EU regulations determine the inspection process.
6. Improve level of comfort and familiarity with the overall inspection process.
7. Given a checklist and inspection package, perform a complete inspection of selected animal products manufacturing facilities.

Target Audience: Inspectors of Export Facilities

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
Inspection of Approved Establishments and BSL2/BSL3 and EIA Laboratories
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to familiarize and update veterinarians on regulations and inspection of approved establishments and BSL2 and BSL3 and EIA laboratories. Inspections of these facilities will be trained in detail.

The participants will be SPRS and NIES employees who will be required to inspect Approved Establishments for taxidermy and approved Biosafety laboratories who handle organisms and vectors. The participants will also be familiar with import isolation procedures and facilities.

Target Audience: AHTs and VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.K.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Inspection of Equine Semen Collection Centers for Export Training
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:

1. The participants of the course will be able to perform inspections of semen export facilities in a consistent manner each time.
2. The participants will have an understanding of the requirements of the EU, Australia, New Zealand and other foreign partners for stallion semen.
3. After completing this course the participants will have the tools necessary to train less experienced USDA inspectors in facility inspections.

Target Audience: APHIS personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.K.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
Mobile Information Management (MIM) Training
Pre-Selected Registration

**Course Purpose:**

This course will equip participants with the knowledge and skills they need to use and assist others with MIM, including working with MIM Manager, using the MIM PDA, MIM Troubleshooting, and Importing and Merging files into MIM.

This course provides intermediate training for users who are familiar with basic MIM functions and includes managing information, troubleshooting, and alternate ways of using MIM technology.

**Target Audience:** Technical or intermediate/advanced users of MIM

**Cost:** Travel costs only

**Contact:** Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.d.keller@aphis.usda.gov

**Nominations:** Participants for this course are selected by the District.

**Selection:** Participants for this course are selected by the District.
National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) Module Delivery Training
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:
To train veterinary medical officers to effectively deliver the subject matter included in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program Supplemental Training Modules to accredited veterinarians. This is a requirement for the veterinarians to maintain their accredited status.

Target Audience: VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.K.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
NVSL Validation of Diagnostic Assays Training
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

General overview of steps needed to validate a diagnostic assay.

Upon completion of the course, attendees will:

- Understand the basics and steps needed for assay validation.
- Understand how to handle the data after information about a diagnostic assay is available.
- Understand how to perform validation for new diagnostic assays.

Target Audience: NVSL technical staff (Technicians, VMOs, and Microbiologists)

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Wendy Lehman | 301-851-3443
Wendy.J.Lehman@aphis.usda.gov
**Outbreak Investigations**  
Open-to-All Registration

**Course Purpose:**

This course targets epidemiologists and provides them with a standard approach to perform proper disease outbreak investigations. Course objectives include:

- Prioritize visits prior to sending out investigators
- Evaluation of initial clinical information
- Correlate test interpretations with clinical signs
- Evaluate and prioritize tracing information
- Evaluate transmission risks and propose mitigations

**Target Audience:** Those who perform field epidemiologic investigations

**Cost:** Travel costs only

**Contact:**  
Dr. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225  
Jason.L.Baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

**Application/Nomination:** The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

**Selection:** Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
Port Operations Training
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:
The purpose of this course is to train port personnel to properly and consistently perform inspections on Export Isolation Facilities (EIF) and Import Quarantine Facilities. Participants will understand the regulations that control disease incursions from Port Facilities and how interagency cooperation helps control animal trade.

Port VMOS will be fluent with the checklists for inspection of port-related facilities. Participants will execute inspections consistently and accurately each time.

Target Audience: Port VMOS and AHTs

Cost: Travel expenses

Contact: Dr. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Participants for this course are selected by the Ports Directors.
Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Training for Agriculture Select Agent Services Inspectors

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:
This course is designed to provide certification for the safe and proper use of a PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator) unit. These units are used by inspectors in the federal Agriculture Select Agent Services (AgSAS) during the course of laboratory inspections. Annual re-certification is required.

Target Audience: USDA Agriculture Select Agent Inspectors

Cost: Travel costs only

Contacts: Ms. Wendy Lehman | 301-851-3443
Wendy.J.Lehman@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Participants are USDA Agriculture Select Agent Inspectors

Selection: This course is only open to USDA Agriculture Select Agent Services Inspectors. Participants will be notified when training is assigned.
Program Disease Field Skills Course

Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

To provide State and Federal Veterinary Medical Officers and Animal Health Technicians with the training to effectively perform basic regulatory veterinary field skills, particularly those pertaining to control, eradication, and surveillance programs. Course will include e-learning pre-work by CD or online. The “face to face” portion of the course will include lectures, live animal labs, and necropsy labs.

At the end of the training participants should be familiar with:

1. Basic animal handling skills
2. Sample collection
3. Sample submission
4. Basic program disease herd and flock plans
5. Basic program disease forms and databases
6. Basic program disease information and epidemiology

Examples of specific skills/activities:

1. Blood collection from the major classes of livestock
2. Bovine tuberculosis comparative cervical test (TB CCT)
3. Bovine tuberculosis reactor necropsy
4. Rectal biopsy for scrapie
5. Obex and lymph node collection for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Target Audience: State and Federal Veterinary Medical Officers who are newly hired, or require training in one or more of the basic skills covered by the course. Priority will be given to veterinarians, however if room is available the course is open to State and Federal Animal Health Technicians whose supervisors feel that they could benefit from the training.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov
Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Scrapie Eradication and Small Ruminants Diseases Training Course

Prioritized Registration

**Course Purpose:**

Provide participants with the information, skills, and epidemiological tools needed to finish eradicating Scrapie from the United States. Develop locally tailored strategies to detect and eradicate Scrapie. Also cover diseases of regulatory importance to small ruminants in general.

**Target Audience:** Scrapie Epidemiologists

**Cost:** Travel costs only

**Contact:** Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov

**Application/Nomination:** The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

**Selection:** Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Site Manager Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
Prepares individuals for the duties associated with being a Site Manager. The Site Manager reports to the Operations Section Chief or the Biosecurity Branch Director, and serves as the Biosecurity Specialist on infected premises. They are a source or information on biosecurity issues for the owner/producer. They perform site evaluations, determine where the biosecurity line is, help establish and maintain biosecurity, and verify proper C&D of personnel and equipment. They also share information and maintain a relationship with the Case Manager.

Target Audience:  VMOs & AHTs

Cost:  Travel costs only

Contact:  Dr. Tim Smith  |  515-337-7044
          Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination:  The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection:  Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Smith-Kilborne Program
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The Smith-Kilborne Program is designed to acquaint veterinary students with various foreign animal diseases which potentially threaten our domestic animal population. The program includes classroom presentations on diseases and their implications, public health, emergency response, and laboratory experiences including recognition and diagnosis of foreign animal diseases and diagnostic sampling techniques.

Target Audience: Second-year veterinary students

Cost: No cost to participants. PDS pays for student travel expenses.

Contact: Dr. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: The Dean’s office of each school announces its own application procedures and determines the selection criteria.

Selection: Each U.S. veterinary school selects one student and forwards the name to PDS.
Southern Border Ports Training
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:
The training is designed to improve standardization and understanding of the most current inspection policies and other border port activities. This will be accomplished through presentations and discussions by APHIS personnel responsible for regulatory activities at southern border ports of entry.

Southern Border Ports Training provides an opportunity for NIES field and hub personnel to review and discuss live animal import policies and procedures; exchange best practices; identify inconsistencies and areas for improvement; and determine action items and future topics for post-conference working groups allowing Veterinary Services can function cohesively across all ports.

Target Audience: Southern Border Port of Entry VMOs and ADDs with Mexico ports in their area. Also attending will be District and Headquarters Import and Export staff.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

Selection: Selections will be made by the Southern Border Ports Director.
Surveillance Data Management Training Network

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The Surveillance Data Management Training Network leverages training resources and provides local training support for Surveillance Data Management. This course provides technical and training delivery training for individuals who are Surveillance Data Management Network Associates.

Surveillance Data Management Associates will provide training to end users of VS Surveillance Data Management applications. This training will equip Surveillance Data Management Network Associates with the knowledge and skills they need to provide effective and consistent training to end users. This course focuses on both how to use VS Surveillance Data Management applications and how to deliver effective Surveillance Data Management training. Participants are provided with training resources to use with end users.

Target Audience: Surveillance Data Management Network Associates

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
  Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: Participants for this course are Surveillance Data Management Network Associates

Selection: Participants for this course are Surveillance Data Management Network Associates
Swine Health and Garbage Feeding Inspector Training
Prioritized Registration

**Course Purpose:**
To train inspectors in how to conduct a garbage feeding inspection to include the proper forms to use, temperature readings, garbage feeder violations, swine restraint and swine bleeding.

**Target Audience:** Swine Garbage Feeding Inspectors

**Cost:** Travel expenses

**Contact:** Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
[Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov)

**Application/Nomination:** The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

**Selection:** Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Transboundary Animal Diseases in Swine
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) are given a clinical understanding of Classical Swine Fever (CSF), African Swine Fever (ASF) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) during their training. These three diseases are complicated and are a few transboundary animal diseases (TADs) that still exists in multiple countries in our hemisphere. With an abundant feral swine population and garbage feeding practices still in place in many states, it is imperative that industry veterinarians and FADDs are well-versed in the epidemiology of CSF, ASF and FMD and that they are able to review its less acute forms of disease. Biosecurity and Surveillance topics are also included.

Target Audience: VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contacts: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Veterinary Services Field Epidemiologist Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The Veterinary Services Field Epidemiologist Training course supports the application of epidemiologic methods or preventive medicine strategies in order to control disease and improve animal and public health. This training will demonstrate and cover the necessary skills and knowledge that each epidemiologist needs to perform epidemiologic investigations and delivery of disease control programs. This training also encourages collaboration between federal and state people to ensure that they work together to respond to and investigate any animal emergency and therefore, better determine the course of action to take so that they can protect the animal health community.

At the end of the training participants should know how to:

1. Associate with others to provide updated information on recent epidemiology or animal health events and explain new opportunities within animal health.
2. Carry out the application of epidemiologic methods or preventive medicine strategies in order to control disease and improve animal and public health.
3. Acquire/maintain knowledge of epidemiologist’s skills in disease investigation methods including those for attribution and risk factors.
4. Given appropriate tools: Epidemiologists will have the knowledge to perform epidemiologic investigations and delivery of disease control programs.

Target Audience: This course is for advanced VS Field Epidemiologists who are or will be, actively involved in the planning, development, and operation of the epidemiologic delivery system, including animal health monitoring disease surveillance, risk assessment, and response to emerging issues.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course. Selection will be made by the District and Service Center Directors.
Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) Training Network

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) Training Network leverages training resources and provides local training support for VSPS. This course provides technical and training delivery training for individuals who are VSPS Network Associates.

VSPS Network Associates will provide training to end users of VSPS. This training will equip VSPS Network Associates with the knowledge and skills they need to provide effective and consistent training to VSPS end users. This course focuses on both how to use VSPS and how to deliver effective VSPS training. Participants are provided with training resources to use with end users.

Target Audience: VSPS Network Associates

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: Participants for this course are VSPS Network Associates

Selection: Participants for this course are VSPS Network Associates
Veterinary Services Veterinary Medical Officers

Career Program: Leadership Foundations
Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to equip Veterinarians with the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful leaders within APHIS. This course specifically focuses on developing 5 of the Office of Personnel Management’s leadership competencies; Influencing and Negotiating, Political Savvy, Strategic Thinking, Written and Oral Communication.

This training will develop the following competencies: Interpersonal Skills, Conflict Management, Oral/Written Communication.

Target Audience: VS VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application process is for the complete VS Veterinary Medical Officers Career Program.

Selection: Individuals chosen to participate in the VS VMOCP will be included in the classroom sessions.
Veterinary Services Veterinary Medical Officers Careers Program  Leadership Skills and Vision Development Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to equip Veterinarians with the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful leaders within APHIS. This course specifically focuses on developing 5 of the Office of Personnel Management’s leadership competencies; Influencing and Negotiating, Political Savvy, Strategic Thinking, Written and Oral Communication.

At the conclusion of this training, participants will obtain the skills necessary to become leaders at the supervisory, management and executive levels. Participants will understand the leadership competency development cycle and how to continue to further develop their leadership skills throughout their careers in APHIS. Additionally participants will understand the behavioral examples of the OPM competencies political savvy, teambuilding and developing others and vision and how to use the examples to enhance their leadership skill and abilities.

Target Audience:  VS VMOs

Cost:  Travel costs only

Contact:  Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

Application/ Nomination:  The application process is for the complete VS Veterinary Medical Officers Careers Program.

Selection:  Individuals chosen to participate in the VS VMOCP will be included in the classroom sessions.
Veterinary Services Veterinary Medical Officers

Careers Program: Orientation
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

This training will provide an in-depth orientation of USDA/APHIS/VS to enable new VS employees to smoothly transition to Federal Service and have productive careers in Veterinary Services. The course is designed to provide an overview of APHIS, VS through an introduction of the organizational structure of the USDA, APHIS & VS. Presentations and discussions will include, but are not limited to, the mission and strategic goals of APHIS, VS business units, the roles of field and headquarters personnel, employee benefits, overview of APHIS sister programs (PPQ, IES, AC, IS, WS) and resources available to maximize the participants’ developmental opportunities. Participants also have the opportunity to meet and engage in discussions with various members of APHIS and VS management, thereby creating a network within VS and gaining further insight into the inner-workings of VS and its affiliated units.

Target Audience: VS VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 919-855-7166
Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application process is for the complete VS Veterinary Medical Officers Careers Program.

Selection: Individuals chosen to participate in the VS VMOCP will be included in the classroom sessions.
Wildlife Seminar for Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness 
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:
To discuss issues of foreign animal disease in wildlife populations, and plans to control diseases if introduced in wildlife populations.

1. To familiarize USDA Emergency Response Personnel, State Wildlife Liaison Officers and Wildlife Services personnel with the threats of foreign animal diseases and emergency response.
2. To appraise possible involvement of wildlife in the event of foreign animal disease introduction.
3. To review salient diseases of wildlife with consideration for potential involvement of domestic livestock and poultry.

Target Audience: Emergency Response Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.K.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted outside of AgLearn. Instructions will be included in the e-mailed course announcement.

Selection: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.