TRAINING COURSES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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Air and Sea Ports Training
Pre-Selected Registration

March 14 - 16, 2017    Chicago, IL

Course Purpose:

The training is designed to improve standardization and understanding of the most current inspection policies and other port activities through presentations and discussions by APHIS personnel responsible for regulatory activities at the air and sea ports.

By bringing field and headquarters personnel together, the training provides an opportunity to review and discuss live animal and animal product 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, so that Veterinary Services can function more cohesively across the ports.

Target Audience: APHIS personnel responsible for regulatory activities at the air and sea ports

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nominations: Pre-Selected
Animal Compensation
Prioritized Registration

June 6 - 9, 2017 Corvallis, OR
August 29 - September 1, 2017 Stillwater, OK

Course Purpose:
Participants will learn to properly use the appraisal calculators for a variety of species as well as other critical steps (components) of the Compensation Process.

Target Audience: AHTs and VMOs

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.
Animal Health 101
Open-to-All Registration

Multiple Dates [See Table of Contents]

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 administrative staff in Veterinary Services. We are providing this training in multiple sites to avoid travel for employees in Headquarters, the District Offices or the NCAH campus. Administrative employees in the Area Offices are invited to attend any of the sessions. Travel expenses will be the responsibility of the Area Office.

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: 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.
Area Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Response Training (FADDRT)
Pre-Selected Registration

November 15 - 16, 2016       Fort Collins, CO (District 6)
August 1 - 2, 2017          Corvallis, OR (District 6)

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

Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7225
          Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: District Directors submit nominations
Basic Radiologic Incident Awareness Training

Open-to-All Registration

October 25 - 27, 2016  Augusta, GA

Course Purpose:
This course is designed to help APHIS personnel understand and be prepared for an event involving excessive exposure to nuclear radiation and could serve as a template for use nationwide. This project will facilitate the delivery of information on Best Practices and training being developed by the APHIS Radiological Incident RED BOOK work group to APHIS field personnel.

Target Audience:  APHIS personnel

Cost:  Travel costs only

Contact:  Ms. Nancy Platter  |  515-337-7063
          Nancy.K.Platter@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations:  Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn.

Selection:  Participants will be prioritized once registration is closed. You will receive official approval of acceptance in the course by the PDS facilitator. Approval status in AgLearn does not automatically enroll you in the course.

Deadline:

Letters:  Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to the participants and speakers, Training Coordinators, and District Directors.
Case Manager Supervisor Training
Prioritized Registration

September 26 - 28, 2017  Ames, IA

Course Purpose:
To introduce participants to field skills used to investigate potential cases as well as the tools used to manage positive cases, particularly in the face of an outbreak.

Target Audience:  VMOs

Cost:  Travel costs only

Contact:  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.
**Classical Swine Fever Continuing Education Course**

**Prioritized Registration**

**May 16 - 18, 2017**

**Ames, IA**

**Course Purpose:**

Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) are given a clinical understanding of CSF during their training. CSF is a complicated disease and is one of the 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 and that they are able to review its less acute forms of disease.

**Target Audience:** VMOs

**Cost:** Travel costs only

**Contact:** Elizabeth Clark | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Clark@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.
Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) and Import Field Activities Training
Prioritized Registration

April 19 - 20, 2017        Davis, CA

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.
District Scrapie and Small Ruminants Diseases Training Course
Prioritized Registration

June 20 - 21, 2017 Gainesville, GA

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: 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.
**Domestic Poultry Field Training**  
**Pre-Selected Registration**

March 28 - 31, 2017           Fayetteville, AR

**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 Management Response System (EMRS)  
Documentation and Record Management  
Open-to-All Registration  

March 7 - 9, 2017  
Ames, IA  

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 VS NIMT 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 VS NIMT Documentation Unit Leaders  

Cost:  
Travel costs only  

Contacts:  
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

June 6 - 8, 2017 Fort Collins, CO

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

Contacts: 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) Training for IMT Logistics Personnel

Pre-Selected Registration

February 7 - 9, 2017                Fort Collins, CO

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 users who are familiar with the basic use of EMRS and includes hands-on training in using EMRS for data entry, data management, and data extraction.

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 Personnel

Cost:  Travel costs only

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

Nominations:  Participants are IMT Logistics Section Personnel

Selection:  Participants are IMT Logistics Section Personnel
Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) for VS IMT Operations Personnel
Pre-Selected Registration

July 25 - 27, 2017  Ames, IA

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 VS National Incident Management Teams operations personnel.

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

Contacts:  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 VS IMT Plans/Incident Command Personnel
Pre-Selected Registration

April 25 - 27, 2017 Fort Collins, CO

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 VS National Incident Management Teams Plans and Incident Command personnel.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident for data retrieval and reporting, and to do data entry for check-in and check-out of personnel.

Target Audience: IMT Plans/Incident Command Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nominations: Participants are IMT Plans/Incident Command Section Personnel

Selection: Participants are IMT Plans/Incident Command Section Personnel
Field Inspection Training

Prioritized Registration

September 19 - 21, 2017 Scranton, PA

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.
Fin Fish Foreign and Emerging Diseases Training (Pilot)
Prioritized Registration

August 8 - 10, 2017    Ames, IA

Course Purpose:
This course will provide participants information and training needed to conduct and lead a FAD investigation when a fin fish pathogen is suspected. This course will cover OIE listed foreign animal fin fish diseases and how to properly collect and handle fin fish diagnostic specimens. Participants will also have an opportunity to practice skills during a mock on-farm aquaculture FAD investigation.

Target Audience:    APHIS Aquaculture Liaisons, FADDs and VMOs

Cost:    Travel costs only

Contact:    Nancy Platter
            Nancy.K.Platter@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.
Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Training - Ames
Pre-Selected Registration

January 30 - February 3, 2017  Ames, IA
April 24 - 28, 2017  Ames, IA
June 12 - 16, 2017  Ames, IA
September 11 - 15, 2017  Ames, IA

Course Purpose:

The training provided in the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) Training - Ames 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 Clark | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Clark@aphis.usda.gov
High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza
Field Reimbursement Training
Pre-Selected Registration

March 21 - 23, 2017        Ames, IA

Course Purpose:
The course will train participants to be Field Reimbursement Specialists. Participants would gain an understanding of:

- The items we can pay for and those we can’t; as well as the amount of reimbursement allowed
- How assist producers in filling out detailed financial plans
- How to assist with record collection and justification of costs
- How to approve and help with developing appraisals for items that they determined to be unable to be cleaned and disinfected and must be destroyed.

Target Audience: APHIS AHT’s and VMO’s

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Robert Dickens | 919-855-7171
Robert.C.Dickens@aphis.usda.gov
Import Export Training for VMOs
Pre-Selected Registration

August 29 - 31, 2017   Riverdale, MD

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. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov
Industry Training for Inspectors of Export Facilities
Open-to-All Registration

April 11 - 13, 2017        Davis, CA

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 Equine Semen Export Facilities

[Open-to-All Registration]

June 13 - 14, 2017  Chesapeake City, MD

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.
Live Bird Marketing System Continuing Education Training Course

Open-to-All Registration

October 25 - 27, 2017 College Station, TX

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to equip Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO’s), Animal Health Technicians (AHT’s), and other regulatory personnel who are involved with the live bird marketing system (LBMS) with the basic information and skills they need to fulfill their job responsibilities. Those skills and responsibilities include identifying the different components of the LBMS throughout the country, defining important concepts of poultry respiratory diseases and national surveillance, identifying biosecurity and disease risks as well as performing proper techniques of bird restraint, swabbing and blood sampling.

At the conclusion of this training participants will be able to:

1. Understand how to properly evaluate and define Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS) stakeholder activity and compliance with applicable state law, program standards, and licensing requirements through consistent audit and evaluation of paper records from the LBMS;
2. Be able to identify and evaluate biosecurity and disease risks in the auction and flea market segments of the LBMS and subsequently provide education and outreach information on appropriate mitigation techniques, e.g., cleaning, disinfection, best practices in biosecurity and transport to retail;
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge of biosecurity issues and best practices to various stakeholder groups via a pre-prepared presentation; and
4. Understand proper bird restraint, swabbing, and euthanasia techniques and be able to practice them.

Target Audience: Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO’s), Animal Health Technicians (AHT’s), and other regulatory personnel who are involved with the live bird marketing system (LBMS)

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nomination: via AgLearn

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

June 27 - 29, 2017 Columbia, SC 
September 19 - 21, 2017 Fort Collins, CO

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.
One Health Collaboration Methods

Open-to-All Registration

February 28 - March 2, 2017    Fort Collins, CO

Course Purpose:
The purpose of this course is to help participants improve preparedness and response activities for zoonotic diseases and other One Health issues. In this interactive course, participants will learn facilitation and teambuilding techniques alongside business process improvement methods to address One Health issues and strengthen One Health collaborations. Participants will work together to review and analyze a current multi-sectoral issue using these techniques.

Target Audience: VS personnel involved in responding to issues that occur at the interface of animal, human, and environmental health and with responsibility for oversight/direction of One Health partnership building and response efforts. Examples of ideal attendees include VS Assistant Directors, VS Liaisons, VS Epidemiologists, and Emergency Coordinators.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Nancy Platter | 515-337-6164 | Nancy.K.Platter@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.
One Health: Applied Critical Thinking
Open-to-All Registration

July 25 - 27, 2017
Minneapolis, MN

Course Purpose:
The Veterinary Services (VS) One Health: Applied Critical Thinking In Today's Workplace training will build on leadership competencies, and can help bridge the gap with experiential learning using specific tools, while incorporating critical thinking along the way.

This training will challenge participants who are experiencing wicked problems with multiple issues that ending up getting involved with no easy answers, along with learning skills to cope with pulling together a team that have divergent skills and diverse perspectives, and gain knowledge on how to make a high profile/high consequence decision. This training will also introduce a variety of tools and techniques to help critically define an issue, develop and analyze options and determine a course of action.

Target Audience: State and Federal personnel involved in responding to issues that occur at the interface of animal, human, and environmental health and with responsibility for oversight/direction of One Health response efforts. Examples of ideal attendees include Assistant District Directors and their State counterparts in animal and/or public health, VS Epidemiologists, and Emergency Coordinators.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Nancy Platter | 515-337-6164 | Nancy.K.Platter@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.
Program Disease Field Skills Course

Prioritized Registration

November 1 - 4, 2016      Ames, IA
March 28 - 31, 2017      Ames, IA
May 2 - 5, 2017          Ames, IA

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 lymphnode 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 Heath Technicians whose supervisors feel that they could benefit from the training.
Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: TBD PDS Contact | 301-851-3592

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 Districts and VS/NAHPP.
Service Center 3 and District 3 Taxidermy and Import Inspection Training
Prioritized Registration

October 25 - 27, 2016 Shakopee, MN

Course Purpose:

This training will prepare VMOs to inspect and approve laboratories for compliance with organisms and vectors regulations and to inspect facilities that are Taxidermy Approved Establishments. The course objectives are to cover the latest regulations and to train inspectors in interview techniques and interpretation of applicable regulations.

Target Audience: Veterinary Services SPRS and NIES employees who inspect laboratories and taxidermy approved establishments for compliance.

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: Selections will be made by the Districts and VS/NAHPP.
Smith-Kilborne Program
Pre-Selected Registration

May 30 - June 6, 2017        Riverdale, MD

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-Solicited Registration

June 27 - 29, 2017  El Paso, TX

Course Purpose:

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

By bringing NIES field and hub personnel together, the training provides an opportunity 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, so that Veterinary Services can function more cohesively across the 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. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075
Aimee.M.Hunt@aphis.usda.gov
Tuberculosis and Cattle Health Issues Training
For Districts 4 & 6
Prioritized Registration

April 4 - 6, 2017 Albuquerque, NM

Course Purpose:
To give our front-line employees the knowledge and skills they need to effectively combat Tuberculosis and other Cattle Health issues that currently threaten Districts 4 and 6.

- 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 Districts and VS/NAHPP.
VS Field Epidemiologist Training
Prioritized Registration

August 15 - 17, 2017 Atlanta, GA

Course Purpose:
To provide VS Field Epidemiologists with the tools to effectively manage and direct surveillance and eradication programs, particularly those pertaining to program diseases in order to protect animal health.

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

1. Oversee and develop field surveillance and eradication strategies
2. Communicate effectively with those carrying out field surveillance and eradication activities
3. Properly evaluate field surveillance and eradication activities
4. Coordinate the reporting (program surveillance and eradication activities of the USDA Program Diseases
5. Implement strategies to mitigate risk for Program Diseases thus working towards the goal of disease eradication or maintaining disease eradication
6. Coordinate and communicate Program Disease activities with State and Federal Health Officials and other stakeholders

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 along with possible training of Designated Epidemiologists. Note: This training fills the classroom training portion of the "Designated Epidemiologist" requirements.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Nancy Platter | 515-337-7063
Nancy.K.Platter@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 VS/NAHPP.
Veterinary Services Veterinary Medical Officers
Careers Program: Leadership Foundations
Pre-Selected Registration

March 21 - 23, 2017 Fort Collins, CO

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
Veterinary Services Veterinary Medical Officers
Careers Program:  *Leadership Skills and Vision Development*
Pre-Selected Registration

August 22 - 24, 2017     Raleigh, NC

**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](mailto:Marvirstine.Y.Briggs-Fisher@aphis.usda.gov)
Veterinary Services Careers Program: Orientation

Prioritized Registration

May 23 - 24, 2017 Riverdale, MD

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training course is to provide an overview of APHIS, Veterinary Services through an introduction of the organizational structure of the USDA and APHIS. The training will provide insight on the mission and strategic goals within APHIS, VS; the VS Reorganization; the roles of field and headquarters personnel and employee benefits and resources available within APHIS. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and engage in discussions with key APHIS personnel and initiate or enhance networking.

Target Audience: New Veterinary Services employees

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.
Veterinary Services Information Systems Training Network

Pre-Selected Registration

August 8 - 10, 2017  Fort Collins, CO  for EMRS
November 2 - 3, 2016  Fort Collins, CO  for VSPS

Course Purpose:

The VSIS Training Network leverages training resources and provides local training support for VS Information Systems. This course provides technical and training delivery training for individuals who are Network Associates in the VSIS Training Network for EMRS/VSPS.

Network Associates in the VSIS Training Network for EMRS/VSPS will provide training to end users of EMRS 2.0/VSPS. This training will equip 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 2.0/VSPS and how to deliver effective training. Participants are provided with training resources to use with end users.

Target Audience:  Network Associates in the VSIS Training Network for EMRS/VSPS

Cost:  Travel costs only

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

Nomination:  Participants for this course are VSIS Training Network Associates for EMRS/VSPS

Selection:  Participants for this course are VSIS Training Network Associates for EMRS/VSPS
Wildlife Seminar for Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness
Open-to-All Registration

May 16 - 18, 2017 Athens, GA

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 cost only

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

Application/Nomination: The application/nomination process will be conducted via AgLearn.