United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
Professional Development Services

TRAINING COURSES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

FY 2020 CATALOG
Posted April 3, 2020
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Courses that are lined out (example) have been postponed or canceled in FY2020.
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. Wendy Lehman to discuss holding a local session.

Cost: Travel costs only

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

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 Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@usda.gov

Nomination: District and Service Center Directors submit nominations.
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@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)
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@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: VS and State Epidemiologists and Disease Reporting Officers

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@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 Field Staff
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 Veterinary Services field staff to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS and EMRS2Go for field activities, including Foreign Animal Disease Investigations, Animal Disease Traceability, and Inspections.

Target Audience: VS Field Staff with the responsibility to use EMRS to document field activities.

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nominations: 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 Incident Management Team 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 Veterinary Services Incident Management Team personnel to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident for disease and resource management activities. Topics include EMRS navigation, data retrieval, mapping, and EMRS2Go. Breakout sessions focus on the use of EMRS by the IMT Finance, Logistics, Operations, and Plans sections, including Disease Reporting Officers. A scenario provides the opportunity to practice using EMRS during an incident.

Target Audience: VS Incident Management Team Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nominations: Participants are VS Incident Management Team Personnel

Selection: Participants are VS Incident Management Team Personnel
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 for disease and resource management activities. Topics include EMRS navigation, data retrieval, mapping, and EMRS2Go. Breakout sessions focus on the use of EMRS by the IMT Logistics, Operations, and Plans sections, including Disease Reporting Officers. A scenario provides the opportunity to practice using EMRS during an incident.

Target Audience:  State Incident Management Team Personnel

Cost:  Travel costs only

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

Nominations:  Participants are State Incident Management Team Personnel

Selection:  Participants are State Incident Management Team Personnel
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@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@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 Reimbursement Specialist

Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The purpose of the Field Reimbursement Specialist Training is to train key individuals to work with producers one-on-one and navigate them through the indemnity and reimbursement process during an animal outbreak.

At the conclusion of this training, participants will become Field Reimbursement Specialists, which is an Incident Command System position. Field Reimbursement Specialists deploy, as needed, during an emergency.

Target Audience: Individuals interested in becoming Field Reimbursement Specialists

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@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 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@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.
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@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.
Import Export Training for Export Document Examiners (EDEs), Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinary Program Assistants (VPAs)

Pre-Selected Registration

Course Purpose:

This course is designed to convey the latest subject matter regarding the importation and exportation of live animals and animal products. It is also an opportunity to increase and improve communications between the import/export field staff, import/export coordinators, and Strategy and Policy (S&P) staff.

Topics may include pets, export audits, certificates, user fees, inspection guidelines, country specific issues, time management, dealing with difficult customers 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: Export Document Examiners, Animal Health Technicians and Veterinary Program Assistants

Cost: Travel Costs only

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

Selection: Participants for this course are selected by the Service Center and Port Directors.
**Inspection of Approved Establishments**

**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 Field Operations 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. Jason Baldwin  |  970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@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.
Live Bird Marketing System Continuing Education Training  
Open-to-All Registration

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. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225  
Jason.L.Baldwin@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 District Offices.
Northern 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 through presentations and discussions by APHIS personnel responsible for regulatory activities at Northern border ports of entry.

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: Northern Border Port of Entry VMOs

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Selection: Selections will be made by the Northern Border Port Director.
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@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 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. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@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.
Sheep and Goat Health Training
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. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@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. Jason Baldwin  |  970-494-7225
          Jason.L.Baldwin@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.
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@usda.gov

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

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

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Fernandez@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: Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338
Kristin.D.Keller@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 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. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225
Jason.L.Baldwin@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: Ms. Wendy Lehman | 301-851-3443
Wendy.J Lehman@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.