Training Courses

Provided by

Professional Development Services

FY 2018 Catalog
Posted February 23, 2018
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Air and Sea Ports Training

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

Selection: Participants for this course are selected by the Ports Directors.
Animal Compensation
Prioritized Registration

**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

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. Aimee Hunt to discuss holding a local session.

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Dr. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075 | Aimee.M.Hunt@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.
Aquaculture Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) Training
Prioritized Registration

**Course Purpose:**

This hands-on course will educate field Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) assisting U. S. commercial aquaculture producers to implement the non-regulatory Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) for their facilities. Course participants will be instructed on the principles of CAHPS and how to evaluate and review CAHPS site specific health plans that are submitted by stakeholders for entry into the voluntary CAHPS program. The course will include site visits to Atlantic salmon facilities that have worked to implement CAHPS on their freshwater sites. CAHPS is a priority element for the VS Aquaculture Program.

**Target Audience:** VMOs

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


**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:**

District 1: Ms. Elizabeth Clark | 631-323-3188
Elizabeth.D.Clark@aphis.usda.gov

District 4: Dr. Tim Smith | 515-337-7044
Timothy.M.Smith@aphis.usda.gov

District 6: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 970-494-7104
Teresa.Drotar@aphis.usda.gov

**Nomination:** District Directors submit nominations
Avian Health Field Training
Pre-Selected 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 poultry surveillance with the basic information and skills they need to fulfill their job responsibilities. Those skills and responsibilities include 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. Be able to identify and evaluate biosecurity and disease risks on farms and in live bird markets and subsequently provide education and outreach information on appropriate mitigation techniques, e.g., cleaning, disinfection, best practices in biosecurity and transport to retail;
2. Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge of biosecurity issues and best practices to various stakeholder groups via a pre-prepared presentation; and
3. 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 poultry surveillance

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.
Basic Radiologic Incident Awareness Training

Open-to-All Registration

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

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.
Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Training for District 5

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 that currently threaten District 5.

- 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.
Case Manager Supervisor Training
Prioritized Registration

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: 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.
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.
Domestic Poultry Field Training
Pre-Selected 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 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.
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

**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 Documentation and Record 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 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

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) for IMT Finance 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 Finance Personnel to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS during an incident to manage finance unit activities, including appraisals, incident contracts, and approving resource requests.

Target Audience: IMT Finance Personnel

Cost: Travel costs only

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

Nominations: Participants are IMT Finance Personnel

Selection: Participants are IMT Finance Personnel
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

Contacts: 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 Plans/Incident Command 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 Plans and Incident Command Personnel to use EMRS.

Participants will obtain the knowledge and skills to use EMRS to manage an incident through data retrieval, data quality control, and reporting.

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
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

Contacts: 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
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.
Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Training – Ames
Prioritized Registration

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 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

Cost: Travel costs only

Contact: Ms. 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.
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 Clark | 631-323-3188 Elizabeth.D.Clark@aphis.usda.gov
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 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.
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.
Import Export Training for Export Document Examiners (EDEs) 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 NIES staff at headquarters.

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 and Veterinary Program Assistants

Cost: Travel Costs only

Contact: Dr. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075
Aimee.M.Hunt@aphis.usda.gov

Selection: Participants for this course are selected by the Service Center and Port 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. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075
Aimee.M.Hunt@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 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 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.
Inspection of Semen and Embryo Export Facilities

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.
Live Bird Marketing System Continuing Education
Training Course
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. 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: Participants for this course are selected by the District Offices.
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.
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: Dr. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075  
Aimee.M.Hunt@aphis.usda.gov

Selection: Selections will be made by the Northern Border Port Director.
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. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075
Aimee.M.Hunt@aphis.usda.gov
One Health: Applied Critical Thinking
Open-to-All Registration

Course Purpose:
The Veterinary Services (VS) One Health: Applied Critical Thinking 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: 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: Applications will be prioritized once registration is closed. The PDS facilitator will notify all applicants whether or not they are accepted into the course.
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: Selections will be made by the Districts and VS/NAHPP.
Scrapie 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.
Site Manager Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:
To introduce participants to field skills used to establish a C&D Line at an infected premise in the face of an outbreak and maintain biosecurity.

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.
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.
Transboundary Animal Diseases and the Swine Industry

Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) are given a clinical understanding of Classical Swine Fever (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: Ms. 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.
Veterinary Services Careers Program: Communication & Managing Up

Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

VSCP: Communication and Managing Up is a required curriculum component of the 2-year comprehensive VSCP training program for new VS employees, set forth in VS Memo 540.14, and intimately linked to the VSCP recruitment program, VS Memo 540.13. The VSCP training program has been designed to develop a highly skilled, forward-looking well-trained workforce ready and capable of meeting the challenges of promoting and protecting the health of agricultural animals. The training activities and opportunities of the VSCP training program enable new employees to make the adjustment to Federal service, accelerate their productivity and build successful, productive careers in APHIS. This course is the commencement of providing new VS personnel with the tools, skills, understanding and commitment to public service necessary to carry out their work and successfully engage the broad spectrum of stakeholders impacted by VS and APHIS activities.

VSCP: Communication & Managing Up is designed to enhance interpersonal communication skills; develop teamwork competencies; examine conflict management styles; and become skilled at sound decision making. This course addresses 8 of the 28 Office of Personnel Management (OPM) competencies: oral communication; team building; interpersonal skills; flexibility; conflict management; resilience; decisiveness; and problem solving. The course focuses on teamwork and inclusive decision-making, two of the values of the USDA Mission Statement.

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 Careers Program: Orientation
Prioritized Registration

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

for EMRS (Emergency Management Response System)
for MIM (Mobile Information Management)
for SCS (Surveillance Collaboration Services)

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/MIM/SCS.

Network Associates in the VSIS Training Network for EMRS/MIM/SCS will provide training to end users of EMRS/MIM/SCS. 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/MIM/SCS 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/MIM/SCS

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/MIM/SCS

Selection:  Participants for this course are VSIS Training Network Associates for EMRS/MIM/SCS
Veterinary Services Veterinary Medical Officers

Careers 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 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.
VS Field Epidemiologist Training
Prioritized Registration

Course Purpose:

The VS 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. 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.
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. Aimee Hunt | 515-337-7075
Aimee.M.Hunt@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.