



**Welcome to APHIS!** Congratulations on becoming a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS employees work in all 50 states, several territories, and 25 countries worldwide. We are on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, protecting America's agricultural and natural resources. There are two core beliefs that guide APHIS' work every day; the first is that healthy and profitable agriculture is good for America because it means feeding and clothing the world. The second is that the Government's role is to do collectively what none of us can do for ourselves.

APHIS' employees are dedicated, compassionate, and highly motivated individuals who work hard to improve the lives of Americans on a daily basis. And now you are a part of that mission. We keep animals and plants healthy—allowing people to enjoy a safe and abundant food supply and protecting the livelihood of our farmers and ranchers. We negotiate trade deals to help agricultural products get to the global marketplace. And we work on the cutting edge of biotechnology and protect the welfare of animals.

This work could not be accomplished without the help of our support units. They help APHIS and its programs accomplish mission critical work by using their expertise in analysis, finance, communications, planning, training, recruitment and talent management, civil rights, and health and safety. The support units make the most of APHIS' resources and create a unified Agency identity.

Much of the work in APHIS is constant, like issuing permits or inspecting licensed facilities. But APHIS is also an emergency response Agency, which means that new challenges or situations can arise suddenly. When that happens, APHIS' program and support unit staffs mobilize to mount a unified and coordinated response effort. Working together as one APHIS, our personnel act swiftly to combat pest and disease outbreaks by communicating vital emergency response information, engaging with producers and farmers, and deploying the resources and staff necessary to ensure that our response efforts are effective.

In conducting all of this work, it's important that we not lose sight of our overall objectives. That's why, when I became APHIS Administrator in 2013, I set very specific goals for the Agency. As you learn more about APHIS and your place in the Agency, I encourage you to take time to read more about these goals on the [Vision and Goals pages](#) of our employee portal, My. APHIS.

As an APHIS employee, you are vital to shaping America's agricultural future by helping us achieve our mission. In fact, APHIS' employees are the Agency's most valuable resource. Your success is fundamental to the Agency's success. That's why we are committed to investing in you, in your training and development and in your health and safety. By working together, I'm sure that we will accomplish many things and overcome any obstacles we face.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shea, APHIS Administrator