

TECT

Our communities

When an animal health emergency occurs, an immediate response is necessary to protect both animals and people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will look to many sources to obtain the veterinary personnel needed to help meet the critical staffing needs during such an emergency.

In 2001, APHIS established the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) to respond to exotic disease outbreaks and other disasters that affect livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife. More student volunteers are urgently needed to assure a decisive response to any potential animal health crises.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Photo credits: The group shots of swine and cattle came from the USDA-Agricultural Research Service collection. USDA employees took the horse photo (Tim McCabe), the chicken photo (Woody Machalek), and the fish photo (Ken Hammond). The images of Dr. Stephan Singleton were taken by APHIS employee Ryan Rogers. The picture of the single cow came from the Professional Photography Library and was digitally enhanced to add the identification tags. The image of a veterinarian examining a sheep came from the APHIS photo library.

This publication supersedes Program Aid No. 1748, "National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps: You Can Make a Difference," which was published in July 2003.

Issued July 2007



Step Outside the Ordinary

**National Animal Health
Emergency Response Corps**

Join | Travel | Explore



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 1940-2

Pro

Our animals

**National Animal Health Emergency Response
Corps (NAHERC) student volunteers:**

- Protect U.S. agriculture
- Help animals in need
- Expand their career options
- Network within the veterinary community
- Learn emergency response procedures

Contact Us

<http://naherc.aphis.usda.gov>
NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov
(301) 851-3595



Step Into a Rewarding World of Adventure, Challenge, and Service

Over the past several years, NAHERC student volunteers have assisted with the foot-and-mouth disease eradication effort in the United Kingdom, the outbreak of low-pathogenic avian influenza in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and the exotic Newcastle disease response in southern California. As a NAHERC student volunteer, you'll experience the rewards of serving your country by helping protect our communities and the U.S. food supply.

Make a difference.
Become a NAHERC student
volunteer today!

Q. Who is eligible?

- A.** Veterinarians with a valid U.S. veterinary diploma from an accredited program.

Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinary Technicians with a diploma and/or equivalent experience.

College students are eligible under the Student Educational Employment Program if they:

- Are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a degree-seeking student in a 4- or 5-year university program, and
- Have reached at least the minimum age required by Federal, State, or local laws and standards governing the employment of minors.
- Are a U.S. citizen.

Eligibility of other veterinary and laboratory personnel will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q. How long are tours?

- A.** Generally between 21 and 30 days.

Q. Will I be paid?

- A.** Yes, you will become a temporary USDA-APHIS employee. You also have the right to refuse assignments. Travel and lodging costs are reimbursed; overtime pay is guaranteed, and workman's compensation is provided.

Federal salaries are determined annually in a system called the General Schedule (GS). NAHERC veterinarians receive the salary rate of GS 11, step 1, employees in the Federal civil service. AHTs qualified at the highest level are paid at the GS 7, step 1, salary rate. College students will be evaluated as AHTs and ranked according to their experience with salaries pegged at the GS 5 to GS 7 levels.

For more salary details, visit <<http://www.opm.gov/oca/07tables/html/gs.asp>>.

Q. How do I apply?

- A.** Send notification of your interest in the program to <NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov>.

The NAHERC Program Coordinator will provide you with an Optional Form 306 to be completed and returned by fax or mail, along with your résumé and proof of college enrollment, to

NAHERC Program Coordinator
USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services
4700 River Road, Unit 41
Riverdale, MD 20737
FAX: (301) 851-3595

For veterinary students, once you are selected to deploy, a letter from your college Dean or Department Chair indicating that you are a veterinary student in good standing must be mailed to the address above.

Q. What if I have more questions?

- A.** Contact the NAHERC Program Coordinator at NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov or call (301) 851-3595 for more information or assistance.

"I was able to work on the exotic Newcastle disease (END) task force in surveillance, diagnostics, and on a special strike team. My experiences with END helped me stand out when applying for scholarships and externships. For example, I received the Smith-Kilborne Foreign Animal Disease Scholarship and later completed an externship at Plum Island. I know that my experiences with NAHERC helped me be a competitive applicant."

—Dr. Stephan Singleton
NAHERC volunteer with the 2002-03 END outbreak in California



Dr. Stephan Singleton, NAHERC volunteer for exotic Newcastle disease in California.

"My experience in California made all the difference! My work as an Animal Health Technician helped shape my vet-school career and was a highly rewarding experience. It was very exciting to have an opportunity to assist with the eradication of a foreign animal disease and gain valuable experience."

