



POSITION

- **GS-0401-05 / 07 / 09 / 11 Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist**

SALARY

- **GS-05 \$39,576.00 per Annum**
- **GS-07 \$49,025.00 per Annum**
- **GS-09 \$59,966.00 per Annum**
- **GS-11 \$72,553.00 per Annum**

New Hires to the federal government normally start at the lowest rate of the salary range for the grade qualified and selected for.

PROGRAM AREA

- **Plant Protection and Quarantine, Field Ops District 6**

DUTY LOCATION

- **Edinburg, TX**

WORK SCHEDULE

- **Full-time**

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT

- **Permanent**

NUMBER OF VACANCIES

- **1**

TRAVEL REQUIRED

- **Occasional Travel for training and work assignments**

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a US Citizen or US National.
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check.
- Successful completion of one-year trial period or probationary period as applicable.
- Direct Deposit: Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
- Individuals who were born male after 12/31/1959 must be Selective Service registered or exempt.
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit E-Verify at <https://www.e-verify.gov/>

WHO MAY APPLY

Non-competitive Hiring Authorities. Veterans – VRA or 30% or More Disabled Veterans, Schedule A (persons with disabilities), Military Spouses, Peace Corps or VISTA Volunteer.

OVERVIEW

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is a multi-faceted Agency with a broad mission area that includes protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. These efforts support the overall mission of USDA, which is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues.

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is a program within APHIS which safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests, and facilitates the safe trade of agricultural products. Join our team and gain valuable experience working in the field to stop this invasive species from harming our nation's agriculture.

This position acts as a liaison for the Agency on operational activities in a specific geographic area, and works with state officials, other agencies, industry, colleges and universities and other internal and external stakeholders interested in activities affected by Agency regulatory and plant quarantine programs. The Specialist performs a variety of duties that provide a comprehensive approach to biosecurity, minimizing the risk of biological and economic damage caused by exotic, non-native plant and animal organisms to agriculture, natural resources and U.S. trade initiatives involving overall plant health activities.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Monitors and enforces compliance agreements, conducts inspections for containment facilities, permit conditions, and BRS inspections.
- Performs and enforces the policies and procedures concerning post-entry quarantine, quarantine facilities, and laboratory inspection procedures.
- Conducts facility and field inspections and monitors compliance for biotechnology institutions and laboratories receiving imported plant pests, pathogens, soil, etc.
- Performs inspections using various detection tools, regulation and clearance of propagative plant material, plant products and identification at Plant Inspection Stations and/or other facilities.
- Collaborates or coordinates inspections with DHS- Customs & Border Protection (CBP) to place or remove holds on targeted shipments.
- Plans, conducts and/or monitors various treatments and remedial measures such as disinfection, sterilization, fumigation, cold treatment, hot water treatment, irradiation of regulated articles for plant and animal pests and diseases.
- Recommends and designs integrated pest management strategies when applicable.
- Participates in public awareness activities, public hearings and information sharing meetings, and provides briefings orally and in writing.
- Provides technical advice which affects the international, interstate, and the intrastate movement of crops, agricultural products, equipment and packing material.
- Participates in the preparation of environmental documentation which includes site-specific assessments.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Basic Requirement for GS-05**
 - A. Degree:** biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position.
 - OR,**
 - B. Combination of education and experience:** Courses equivalent to a major, 24 credit hours in a discipline as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

- **For qualifying at GS-07, 09, or 11 grade levels:** applicants must meet the Basic Requirement listed above and have related experience appropriate for the corresponding grade level; **OR**, additional education; **OR**, a combination of additional education and experience.

NOTE: Transcripts must be provided. Applicants resumes and transcripts will be evaluated for meeting the Basic Requirement and for the qualifying eligible starting grade level based on additional education and/or experience.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit the following items for consideration mayra.klein@usda.gov. **Please list the Position Title in the subject line.**

- Applicants are required to submit the following items for consideration.
- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) other qualifications or certifications; and 5) supervisors name and phone number for each work period listed and whether or not they may be contacted for reference checks.
- When claiming Veterans' preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active-duty service under honorable conditions within 120 days after the date the certification is submitted.
- Disabled Veterans must also submit a VA Disability Letter (if applicable) for verification of service-connected disability.
- Schedule A candidates must include a Schedule A Letter for eligible disabled persons. To be eligible for Schedule A, you must provide a proof of a disability letter stating that you have an intellectual disability, severe physical disability, or psychiatric disability. You can get this letter from your doctor, a licensed medical professional, a licensed vocational rehabilitation specialist or any federal, state, or local agency that issues or provides disability benefits. Letter must be on office Letterhead.
- Military Spouses must provide a copy of: Spouse ID card, Copy of Active-Duty spouses military orders, and marriage certificate.
- Peace Corps or VISTA Volunteers must provide their NCE letter.
- Must submit a copy of Transcripts if qualifying with education as listed in qualifications section. Transcripts can be unofficial but, if selected, candidates will be required to submit official transcripts before start date.

[Equal Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[Reasonable Accommodation Policy](#)

[Privacy Act](#)