

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS (MRP)
CAREER INTERN PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

JOB NUMBER: MRP-APHIS-MRPBS-CIP-2007-006

POSITION TITLE: Agricultural Commodity Grader (Meat)

SALARY: GS-1980-05 (\$30,386.00 - \$39,501.00)
GS-1980-07 (\$37,640.00 - \$48,933.00)

LOCATION: Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
Livestock and Seed Program
Meat Grading and Certification Branch

MAJOR DUTIES:

The incumbent receives formal and on-the-job training in applying basic theories, techniques, and methodology. The formal training includes instruction at a central and field location training facility stressing familiarization with grade standards and purchase specifications and with meat quality regulations, policies, and procedures. Upon successful completion of the training course, incumbent is assigned to a field location for on-the-job training involving specific assignments under close supervision to acquaint the employee with meat grading and quality assurance techniques.

Examines meat and/or meat products before and after purchase and during processing, handling and transportation for conformance to contractual requirements and specifications. Quality assurance examinations of meat and meat products usually are conducted in contractor establishments.

Uses purchase order, contracts, and technical specifications to review contractor's product to determine quality, quantity, processing, handling, packaging, refrigeration, transportation and storage. This involves examination by sensory evaluation and use of instruments designed for field examination of products.

Examines and grades some but not all classes of meat (e.g., beef, veal, calf, lamb, yearling mutton, mutton, etc.) And substantially the full range within each grade of dressed meat carcasses and wholesale cuts at establishments to which assigned. Interprets, maintains, and applies official standards.

Explains and defends grades assigned to carcasses and wholesale cuts of meat in terms of official standards when grades are questioned by plant management. Corrects self-made errors. Refers borderline decisions to supervisor or senior grader.

Is responsible for grading equipment assigned for use. Maintains adequate control of the equipment at all times to assure only authorized use, storage, and correct and proper application of grade and other official marks.

Prepares agricultural grading and acceptance certificates at the discretion

of the supervisor. Participates in giving public demonstrations and reviewing retail meat outlets (i.e., supermarkets, meat markets, hotels, restaurants, etc.) For compliance with Public Law 272 and maintains permanent records related to their duties.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:

You must be a U.S. citizen in addition to the qualifications listed below:

QUALIFICATIONS:

For GS-5 Successful completion of a full 4-year course of major study in any field leading to a bachelor's degree in accredited college or university that included (9 semester hours or the equivalent in agriculture, botany, crop production, agronomy, product processing, food chemistry, technology, quality control, or other related subjects).

OR

General Experience: 3 years, 1 year of which was equivalent to at least GS-4. Experience that provided familiarity with the standard methods or practices related to the (product's processing, storage, transportation, quality control techniques, or marketing in terms of the effects such factors have on product quality).

OR

Equivalent combinations of education and experience may be used to meet the total qualification.

For GS-7 Successful completion of 1 full year of graduate level education in any field that included (9 semester hours or the equivalent in agriculture, botany, crop production, agronomy, product processing, food chemistry, technology, quality control, or other related subjects).

OR

Superior academic achievement (SAA). SAA is based on either 1) Class standing, upper third of the graduating class in the college, university, or major subdivision based on completed courses; or 2) Grade-point average, 3.0 or higher out of a possible 4.0 as recorded on my official transcript, or as computed based on 4 years of education, or as computed based on courses completed during the final 2 years of the curriculum; or 3.5 or higher out of a possible 4.0 based on the average of the required courses in the major field completed during the final 2 years of the curriculum; or 3) Election to membership in one of the national scholastic honor societies listed in the Association of College Honor Societies and/or Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities. Submit a copy of your transcript, proof of Class Standing, GPA computation, or Honor Society membership.

OR

Specialized Experience: 1 year equivalent to at least GS-5. Experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. (product's processing, storage, transportation, quality control techniques, or marketing in terms of the effects such factors have on product quality).

OR

Equivalent combinations of education and experience may be used to meet the total qualification.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit USDA Career Intern Program application (available on-line at: <http://www.usda.gov/da/employ/CareerInternApplication.htm>)
With a copy of your resume, most recent transcript and proof of veteran's preference if applicable to:

USDA, MRP, Human Resources Operations
Attn: Career Intern Program
1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 0758-S
Washington, DC 20250
Fax: (202) 690-2782

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **Open Indefinitely**

QUESTIONS CONTACT: John.C.Morris@aphis.usda.gov
202-690-4759

Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reasons such as race, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, politics, disability, age, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.
