



# PHS Commissioned Corps Veterinarians at USDA

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# Mission of USDA

- Founded by President Lincoln in 1862
- The "people's Department"
- Help farmers and ranchers



# USDA and the PHS CC

- Food Safety and Inspection Service
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



# Mission of FSIS

- To ensure that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.



# FSIS' Public Health Role

- Inspect all meat, poultry, and egg products sold in interstate commerce
  - ◆ Birds and animals before and after slaughter
  - ◆ Eggs before and after breaking
  - ◆ Processed products
- Re-inspect imported products



# FSIS' Public Health Role

- Test for microbiological, chemical, and other types of contamination
- Conduct epidemiological investigations of food-borne health hazards and disease outbreaks in cooperation with the CDC



# FSIS' Public Health Role

- Evaluate state and foreign inspection programs
- Conduct enforcement activities



# Emergency Preparedness And Response Roles

- Protect against intentional contamination of food
- Dealing with physical security, surveillance and monitoring, personnel security, and emergency response within inspected facilities or in the distribution chain
- Work with State and local governments





# Major Organizational Components

- Office of Public Health Science
- Office of Field Operations
- Office of Food Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Office of Policy, Program and Employee Development
- Office of Management



# Geographic Assignment Locations

- Headquarters in DC
- 15 District Offices
- Technical Service Center, Omaha
- Center for Learning, College Station
- Field Services Labs (Georgia, Missouri, California)
- 6,500 plants



# Memorandum of Agreement

- FSIS: Signed in April 2003
- Provides a second personnel system for applicants and additional personnel resource for managers
- Currently have 19 officers



# Positions Filled By PHS Veterinarians

- 2 Enforcement Investigation and Analysis Officers: OFO
- 2 Epidemiologists: OFSEP, OPHS
- 1 Deputy Executive Associate: OPPED
- 1 PHS CC Program Manager: OM



# Special Qualifications

- Training/Interest in:
  - ◆ Epidemiology
  - ◆ Public Health
  - ◆ Preventive Medicine
  - ◆ Pathology
  - ◆ Food Safety
  - ◆ Biosecurity



# Current FSIS Vacancies for Vets - 46 in plant

- AL
- AR
- CA
- CO
- DE
- ID
- IL
- IN
- KS
- LA

- MI
- MN
- MO
- NE
- OK
- OR
- PA
- TX
- UT
- WI



# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)



# Mission of APHIS

- To protect American agriculture by protecting against plant and animal pests and diseases
- Ensure animal welfare by enforcing the Animal Welfare Act
- Carrying out wildlife damage management activities





# APHIS' Public Health Role

- Safeguards borders against foreign agricultural pests and diseases
- Eliminates foreign pests
- Combat domestic animal diseases
- Monitor wildlife diseases like rabies and Lyme disease; remove animals with zoonotic diseases



# Emergency Preparedness And Response Roles

- Response to intentional introduction of a domestic animal disease



# Major Organizational Components

- Plant Protection and Quarantine
- International Services
- Veterinary Services
- Animal Care
- Wildlife Services



# Geographic Assignment Locations

- Headquarters: Riverdale, MD
- Various duty assignments across US



# Positions Filled By PHS Veterinarians

- None hired yet - waiting on MOA with PHS



# Identifying a USDA Position



# One-stop Shopping

**USAJOBS**

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/a9ag.asp>



# Remember the Billet/Grade Comparison

- *GS 9/11 = CC 0-3*
- *GS 12 = CC 0-4*
- *GS 13 = CC 0-5*
- *GS 14/15 = CC 0-6*
- *SES = CC 0-7/0-8*





Questions?  
Contact me!

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