

Position Classification Flysheet for Animal Science Series, GS-0487

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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions that involve research or other professional and scientific work in the field of animal science including nutritional, biophysical, biochemical, and physiological relationships. This work requires full professional education and training in the biological and agricultural sciences and a fundamental knowledge of the principles, methods, techniques, and relationships in the field of animal science and the application of this knowledge in the investigation, analysis, and solution of animal science problems.

This series coverage standard supersedes and is to be substituted for the series definition for the Husbandry Series, GS-0487, issued in April 1967. The series has now been defined to reflect broader series coverage information. Positions covered by the previous series will now be titled animal scientists or, as appropriate, dairy scientists or poultry scientists.

NOTE: Except where specifically dealing with work distinctions, the generic term "animal scientist," as provided in this series coverage standard, also applies to dairy scientists and poultry scientists.

EXCLUSIONS

The field of animal science represents a broad spectrum of applied science that requires extensive preparation in the animal sciences and the related biological and physical sciences, and to an increasing degree, in mathematics and statistics. Therefore, the traditional specialties of animal science and the related sciences, e.g., biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, genetics, tend to overlap considerably and often are found in combinations. Additionally, in the Federal Service, both the traditional specialties of animal science and many of the basic and applied biological and agricultural sciences are subject to substantial change over a period of time as the field evolves, recombines, and advances, and programs change in scope and emphasis. As a direct result of this occupational mix, scientists working in closely related occupations may perform work that would be defined as a part or phase of animal science work and, conversely, the animal scientist may be performing work that could be described as a part or phase of the work performed in a closely related area of the animal science or, in some cases, agricultural, biological, and other sciences.

Distinctions between animal science positions and others involving closely related disciplines depend upon the purpose of the work, the background of the incumbent, the methodology and approach involved, the career patterns, and the requirement for a full range of animal science skills and knowledges. In many instances, the best single indicator to correct classification of positions involved in professional work in the animal sciences is the purpose of the work as determined by responsible management.

Excluded from this series are the following classes of positions:

1. Positions primarily concerned with professional veterinary work to investigate, inspect, and deal with animal diseases, animal pollution, contamination of food of animal origin, health and safety of imported animals and animal products in programs established to protect and improve the health, products, and environment of or for the nation's livestock, poultry, or other species for the benefit of human as well as animal well-being; *and* require that the incumbent be properly licensed to practice veterinary medicine, are classifiable in the [Veterinary Medical Science Series, GS-0701](#).
2. Positions primarily concerned with the study and investigation of microscopic and submicroscopic organisms such as protozoans, bacteria, viruses, etc., and requiring a broad knowledge of microbiological methods, techniques, and procedures are classifiable in the [Microbiology Series, GS-0403](#).
3. Positions primarily concerned with research or other professional and scientific work involving the study of the vital functions and processes essential to animal life in the field of animal physiology, i.e., those dealing with the functions, environmental responses, and biological activities and processes of the basic living organism and its component parts are classifiable in the [Physiology Series, GS-0413](#).
4. Positions primarily concerned with the study and investigation of the principles and mechanisms of transmission of characters by inheritance are classified in the [Genetics Series, GS-0440](#).
5. Positions primarily concerned with research or other professional work in feeding and nutrition or management of wildlife resources are classified in the [Wildlife Biology Series, GS-0486](#).
6. Positions primarily involving research or other professional work in the field of zoology including classification, structure, ecology, parasitological phenomena, evolution, and the life history of animals, and engaged in the investigation, analysis, and solution of zoological problems, are classified in the [Zoology Series, GS-0410](#).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Most animal scientists in the Federal Service are involved in work performed in connection with investigative and research activities. Other positions in the occupation are assigned to clinical or other nonresearch work, e. g., those concerned with management of herds or flocks in a productive operation, or with the application of a knowledge of animal, dairy, and poultry sciences in general.

Animal Scientists primarily are concerned with the breeding, development, selection, feeding, management, and production of livestock and similar animals, and with the production and care of their products.

Dairy Scientists concentrate on dairy animals and are specifically concerned with milk production and the various factors that influence milk production.

Poultry Scientists are specifically concerned with the breeding, development, feeding, management, and production of poultry, and utilization of poultry products. Detailed information about the nature of the work performed by Federal employees in the Animal Science Series, and the specific types of activities in which they are engaged, may be obtained from the corresponding qualification standard in the Handbook X-118.

SPECIALIZATIONS AND TITLES

Federal laboratories and institutions play an important role in the scientific research that is being carried out in animal science, dairy science, and poultry science. This standard recognizes that the requirements of these three major subject-matter specialization areas of the occupation are discrete. For example, for positions in the subject scientific field, varied work assignments may require specialized knowledges in:

- animal evaluation, biochemistry, biometry, environmental science, genetics, immunology, biological management, meat science, microbiology, muscle biology, nutrition, pathology, and/ or physiology;

as related to:

- beef cattle, companion animals, dairy cattle, horses, laboratory research animals, poultry, sheep, and/or swine.

Because of the diversity of positions included in this series, a variety of specializations could be established that would appear valid from a purely descriptive point of view. However, the variations in the specialty fields are such that it is impracticable to define all such variations as classification specializations. Therefore, the titles established in this standard are limited to the three major categories within the series which require significantly different knowledges and skills. (See discussion in *Background Information*.)

Selection of candidates for specific positions requiring highly specialized knowledges and skills can be accomplished by careful consideration of both the specific requirements of the position and the qualifications of the candidates.

The following titles are established for positions in this series:

- *Animal Scientist*
- *Dairy Scientist*
- *Poultry Scientist*

Titles of positions that involve research duties and responsibilities as defined in the [Research Grade-Evaluation Guide](#) will be designated with the prefix "Research."

Positions that meet or exceed the criteria of the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#) for evaluation as a supervisor are identified by adding the prefix "Supervisory" to the basic title.

DETERMINING GRADE LEVELS OF POSITIONS

Most positions in this series are engaged in the performance of basic or applied research in animal science and should be evaluated by reference to the [Research Grade-Evaluation Guide](#). As there are relatively few nonsupervisory nonresearch positions, the establishment of grade-level criteria for their evaluation is not considered practicable.

The [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#) should be used to evaluate positions that include supervisory responsibilities.