



The employees of the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) safeguard the Nation's \$1.5 trillion agricultural economy. PPQ's diverse workforce—from botanists to virologists, accountants to writers—is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing American agriculture. With sharp increases in the levels of international travel and commerce, PPQ is facing greater challenges than ever in accomplishing its mission: safeguarding agriculture and natural resources from risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds. PPQ accomplishes its mission through careful inspection, detection, and protection activities. PPQ is seeking a diverse group of people to fill a variety of interesting jobs.

Many U.S. industries and a large part of the U.S. economy depend on the abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, agricultural products, and natural resources that Americans import and export every day. But if foreign plant pests and diseases are introduced into the U.S. environment, they can greatly damage our farm economy, affect human health, decimate our natural resources, and cost billions of dollars in control and eradication. APHIS-PPQ employees form America's first line of defense against the establishment and spread of foreign pests and diseases.

Established: 1972  
 Headquarters: Riverdale, MD  
 Regional Offices: Raleigh, NC; Fort Collins, CO  
 Center for Plant Health and Science and Technology  
 Raleigh, NC  
 PPQ Employees: More than 3,300



## Your Career Safeguarding America Plant Protection and Quarantine

We encourage all interested parties to apply, including veterans, people with disabilities, and surplus or displaced Federal employees.

For more information about careers with PPQ, visit our Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq>

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# Your Career Safeguarding America

## Inspect

PPQ's Plant Health Safeguarding Specialists are looking for hitchhikers, but they're not watching the interstate highways. These inspectors are on the lookout for exotic pests infesting trees in parks and inner-city and suburban neighborhoods in big cities like Chicago and New York. These PPQ officers also carefully scrutinize cargo shipments for invasive pests like the Asian longhorned beetle. This foreign insect stows away in wooden packing materials like crates, pallets, and skids and threatens the health of U.S. hardwood trees nationwide.

PPQ inspectors are critical to keeping American agriculture and natural resources safe. Other key positions include

- PPQ (Plant Protection and Quarantine) officers
- Plant protection technicians
- Environmental technicians
- Biological technicians
- Export certification specialists
- Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) officers

## Detect

PPQ agriculturalists are detectives. When they investigate a possible new outbreak of a destructive plant disease, they determine the presence of pathogens such as the fungus that causes soybean rust. PPQ's surveillance work helps USDA track the advance of many foreign diseases like soybean rust and citrus greening, which reduce crop yields and could cause devastating losses to the agricultural sector if they became established nationwide.

If you want to use your education, skills, and experience on the frontline, PPQ has career opportunities for:

- Agriculturalists
- Botanists
- Plant pathologists
- Entomologists
- Biologists
- Molecular biologists

## Protect

Sometimes the front line protecting our Nation's agricultural and natural resources leaves the United States entirely! For certain plants imported in quantity, like bulbs and cut flowers, PPQ officers perform their preclearance inspections overseas. Doing that significantly reduces the risk of foreign pest invasion. Preclearance work is an important part of PPQ's new emphasis on safeguarding through surveillance overseas to prevent destructive pests from entering our country.

If you have a background in the biological sciences, are a motivated self-starter, and thrive on challenging, problem-solving work with an investigative aspect, we invite you to apply for a PPQ officer position. A degree isn't necessary, but you must have earned at least 24 hours of college-level credits in plant science, entomology, biology, or closely related courses. You must be a U.S. citizen to apply. Candidates selected for positions must successfully complete an 8-week PPQ training course.

If your talents lie in administrative work, computer science, or management, PPQ offers interesting careers in those areas, too. But the real question is, . . .

## Are You Ready?

If you seek a career that offers challenges and rewards, potential and growth, stability and job satisfaction, the APHIS-PPQ team has opportunities for you to consider. Competitive salaries, flexible hours, a supportive and innovative work environment, and travel opportunities are just the start. Outstanding benefits include

- Competitive starting pay with regular increases
- Opportunities for salary reviews and advancement
- Family-friendly work and leave policies
- 10 paid Federal holidays and paid vacation leave
- Opportunities for recognition and awards
- Comprehensive medical benefits
- Health, wellness, and fitness programs
- Paid medical leave
- Affordable health and life insurance
- Attractive retirement benefits and pension plan
- Domestic and international travel opportunities

Become an integral part of safeguarding the Nation's agricultural economy and precious natural resources. Join us in Plant Protection and Quarantine.