



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 before 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 animal 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  
Field Offices: Located in all 50 States and U.S. territories  
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/plant\\_health/ppq\\_recruitment](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ppq_recruitment), or call us toll-free at 1-800-762-2738.

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Issued August 2006  
Slightly Revised February 2009



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Program Aid No. 1852

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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 specialists are on the lookout for exotic pests infesting trees in parks and inner-city and suburban neighborhoods in big cities such as Chicago and New York. They also carefully scrutinize plant shipments for invasive pests and diseases at plant inspection stations located at ports of entry around the country.

In addition, the PPQ program includes Veterinary Medical Officers. With a title like this, you may be wondering how this group fits under the PPQ program. The reason is that the risks to U.S. agriculture are not just limited to plants—animal-derived products pose a great threat of bringing diseases into our country as well. PPQ's Veterinary Medical Officers provide scientific advice and expertise at ports of entry across the Nation to prevent the introduction of infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases of livestock into the United States through imported animal products.

Plant Health Safeguarding Specialists and Veterinary Medical Officers are critical to keeping American agriculture and natural resources safe. Other key positions involving inspection work include:

- 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 (e.g., soybean rust and citrus greening) that 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 detecting pests and diseases on the front line, PPQ has career opportunities for:

- Agriculturalists
- Botanists
- Plant Pathologists
- Entomologists

- Biologists
- Molecular biologists
- Veterinarians

## Protect

Sometimes the front line protecting our Nation's agricultural and natural resources leaves the United States entirely! For certain plants imported in quantity, such as bulbs and cut flowers, PPQ officers perform their preclearance inspections overseas. Conducting this work abroad 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.