

# TECT

Our communities

When an animal health emergency occurs, an immediate response is necessary to protect both animals and people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will look to many sources to obtain the veterinary personnel needed to help meet the critical staffing needs during such an emergency.

In 2001, APHIS established the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) to respond to exotic disease outbreaks and other disasters that affect livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife. More student volunteers are urgently needed to assure a decisive response to any potential animal health crises.



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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## Step Outside the Ordinary

National Animal Health  
Emergency Response Corps

Join | Travel | Explore



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 1940-2

# Pro

Our animals

National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) student volunteers:

- ← Protect U.S. agriculture
- ← Help animals in need
- ← Expand their career options
- ← Network within the veterinary community
- ← Learn emergency response procedures

### Contact Us

<http://naherc.aphis.usda.gov>  
NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov  
(301) 734-8073



# Step Into a Rewarding World of Adventure, Challenge, and Service

Over the past several years, NAHERC student volunteers have assisted with the foot-and-mouth disease eradication effort in the United Kingdom, the outbreak of low-pathogenic avian influenza in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and the exotic Newcastle disease response in southern California. As a NAHERC student volunteer, you'll experience the rewards of serving your country by helping protect our communities and the U.S. food supply.

Make a difference.  
Become a NAHERC student  
volunteer today!

## Q. Who is eligible?

- A.** Veterinarians with a valid U.S. veterinary diploma from an accredited program.

Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinary Technicians with a diploma and/or equivalent experience.

College students are eligible under the Student Educational Employment Program if they:

- Are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a degree-seeking student in a 4- or 5-year university program, and
- Have reached at least the minimum age required by Federal, State, or local laws and standards governing the employment of minors.
- Are a U.S. citizen.

Eligibility of other veterinary and laboratory personnel will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## Q. How long are tours?

- A.** Generally between 21 and 30 days.

## Q. Will I be paid?

- A.** Yes, you will become a temporary USDA-APHIS employee. You also have the right to refuse assignments. Travel and lodging costs are reimbursed; overtime pay is guaranteed, and workman's compensation is provided.

Federal salaries are determined annually in a system called the General Schedule (GS). NAHERC veterinarians receive the salary rate of GS 11, step 1, employees in the Federal civil service. AHTs qualified at the highest level are paid at the GS 7, step 1, salary rate. College students will be evaluated as AHTs and ranked according to their experience with salaries pegged at the GS 5 to GS 7 levels.

For more salary details, visit <http://www.opm.gov> and click on "View Salaries and Wages."

## Q. How do I apply?

- A.** Send notification of your interest in the program to <NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov>.

The NAHERC Program Coordinator will provide you with an Optional Form 306 to be completed and returned by fax or mail, along with your résumé and proof of college enrollment, to

NAHERC Program Coordinator  
USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services  
4700 River Road, Unit 41  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
FAX: (301) 734-7817

For veterinary students, once you are selected to deploy, a letter from your college Dean or Department Chair indicating that you are a veterinary student in good standing must be mailed to the address above.

## Q. What if I have more questions?

- A.** Contact the NAHERC Program Coordinator at NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov or call (301) 734-8073 for more information or assistance.



Dr. Stephan Singleton, NAHERC volunteer for exotic Newcastle disease in California.

"My experience in California made all the difference! My work as an Animal Health Technician helped shape my vet-school career and was a highly rewarding experience. It was very exciting to have an opportunity to assist with the eradication of a foreign animal disease and gain valuable experience."

"I was able to work on the exotic Newcastle disease (END) task force in surveillance, diagnostics, and on a special strike team. My experiences with END helped me stand out when applying for scholarships and externships. For example, I received the Smith-Kilborne Foreign Animal Disease Scholarship and later completed an externship at Plum Island. I know that my experiences with NAHERC helped me be a competitive applicant."

—Dr. Stephan Singleton  
NAHERC volunteer with the 2002-03 END outbreak in California

