



# Mississippi State UNIVERSITY

## College of Veterinary Medicine



### **USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services Temporary Training Opportunities – Summer Internships**

The Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine represents many disciplines that address urgent issues including new or emerging disease pathogens some of which may be zoonotic or exotic, agroterrorism, bioterrorism, environmental safety, and food safety problems that pose a risk to the well-being of citizens in the United States and around the world. As these threats grow and diversify, there is an increasing demand for veterinarians in the field of public practice and food supply veterinary medicine. The faculty within the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine works to prepare students for employment opportunities which will meet these needs.

In response to the needs posed by these challenges, Mississippi State has embarked on a partnership with the **United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS – [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov))** to provide experiential learning opportunities for students during summers, breaks and open rotations. The focus of the learning opportunities is to provide veterinary students with hands-on experience in public veterinary practice through internships as described below.

Students must apply for the internships through the USAJOBS website. The internship can be accessed by the individual urls as listed below. The application deadline for these positions is **February 6, 2009**. This is a temporary summer intern program appointment that begins at the end of the Spring term and concludes on or before 9/30/2009. Starting dates are negotiated with hiring officials and appointments usually end around Labor Day. It does not confer all of the benefits usually associated with the competitive service such as tenure, transfer privileges, retention rights during a reduction-in-force and health and life insurance benefits. However, the selectee will be entitled to sick leave and vacation time. A salary is paid based on the qualifying grade.

#### **Summer Internships**

##### **Field Experience – Animal Health Technician - 1 vacancy - Rio Grande City, TX**

[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=77986986&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D15+00%3A03%3A01&Logo=0&q=summer&sort=rv&jbf574=AG34&FedEmp=Y&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=77986986&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D15+00%3A03%3A01&Logo=0&q=summer&sort=rv&jbf574=AG34&FedEmp=Y&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=/agency_search.asp)

Students assist Veterinary Medical Officers and Animal Health Technicians in a variety of duties relative to animal disease control and eradication. The duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Assists Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO) with inspection and testing of livestock, poultry, and other avian species on ranches, farms, auctions, markets, etc., to detect animal diseases and parasites.
- Supervises cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and premises that are contaminated by disease organisms or as a precautionary measure.
- Assists with conducting primary investigations, issuing warning notices, and executing violation notices.
- Contacts owners of diseased or exposed animals or poultry, and inquires about first appearance of disease, clinical signs, disease progression, and death losses.
- Inspects livestock moving in interstate commerce for visible evidence of disease and compliance with Federal and State regulations pertaining to interstate and intrastate movements.
- As required, collects data for the National Animal Health Monitoring System, trains and/or provides technical supervision to lower graded technicians, and serves as a member of a Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization taskforce.

**Epidemiological Experience – Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) Fort Collins, CO**

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=77826620&jbf574=AG34&brd=3876&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D17+11%3A41%3A28&q=summer&sort=rv&vw=d&Logo=0&FedPub=Y&caller=%2Fagency%5Fsearch%2Easp&FedEmp=Y&ss=0&TabNum=2&rc=2>

Student will analyze data collected through national surveys of disease prevalence, production practices, etc., of specific food animals, e.g., dairy, swine, beef cow/calf. They also will assist veterinarians and epidemiologists in developing fact sheets with results of surveys and disease studies and conduct extensive literature searches on various animal disease agents and write reports summarizing findings. They will also assist veterinarians, epidemiologists, and economists in developing risk assessments dealing with livestock and livestock product import activities and troubleshoot data quality issues with appropriate staff. This may involve performing analysis to determine why data is outside normal constraints. The student will participate in various stages of studies, research and special projects utilizing specialized data systems and tools, and may also develop reports.

**Biological Science Aid and Technician**

1 vacancy – Baton Rouge, LA

[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=77814221&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D15+00%3A03%3A01&Logo=0&q=summer&sort=rv&jbf574=AG34&FedEmp=Y&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=77814221&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D15+00%3A03%3A01&Logo=0&q=summer&sort=rv&jbf574=AG34&FedEmp=Y&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=/agency_search.asp)

The duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Sets up and completes daily ELISA test which is a complete serological procedure for the determination of antigen antibody reactions.
- Uses multi channel pipettes, automatic pipettes, radio immunoassay vials, washer aspirator machine, semiautomatic SR-1 diluter, plate reader, personal computer, caustic reagents and micro titer plates.
- Correlates blood samples and charts.
- Samples, including samples from slaughter plants, are centrifuged and prepared for testing.
- Conducts APA test for brucellosis. Performs card test for brucellosis, plate test, and rivanol test.

- Sets up and completes the complement fixation test, a complex serological procedure requiring differentiation and calculation using as dictated: micro titer plate, micro diluter, reading mirror, centrifuge, plate sealer, automatic pipette, water bath, and incubator.
- Routinely performs Brucellosis Ring Test (BRT).
- Collects red blood cells from live donor sheep by venous puncture of jugular vein into citrated phosphate buffer to retard clotting cells. Responsible for daily cleanup and disinfecting work area and equipment.

For additional information please contact:

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