FSIS Mission

Protect the consumer by ensuring that meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

- Prevent diseased animals from entering food supply
- Examine carcasses & parts for pathology & other visible defects
- Inspect products through processing, handling, and packaging
- Prevent the use of food as a weapon (Food Security)
Public Health Veterinarians
- approximately 1,000

Inspectors
- approximately 7,000

Inspects
- approximately 6,000 plants nationwide
- over 9 billion poultry carcasses per year
- over 100 million swine carcasses per year
- over 35 million cattle carcasses per year
- 3.5 billion pounds of processed egg products per year
Most of our veterinarians work in the Office of Field Operations, Inspection Operations Nationwide.
FSIS veterinarians focus their scientific skills to ensure:

- industry is preventing public health hazards
- therefore, decreasing risks of foodborne hazards from entering the food supply
The events of September 11, 2001, brought the issue of vulnerability of our food supply to the forefront.

Veterinarians, along with their inspection staff, are our first line of defense for food security.
Skills Veterinarians Bring

- Scientific expertise to evaluate food safety systems
- Knowledge of the links between animal and human health and well-being
- Knowledge of zoonotic diseases, microbiology and public health
- Knowledge of treatment protocols to make decisions on residue testing
- Scientific methodology
- Critical thinking ability to assess complex information to make decisions regarding food safety vulnerabilities and regulatory compliance
Public Health Veterinarian Responsibilities

- Verify humane handling
- Conduct antemortem & postmortem inspection
- Conduct sanitation inspection
- Assess sanitation & food safety programs
- Conduct sampling (residues, microbiology, pathology)
- Assess HACCP plans
- Lead inspection teams
Some Career Paths

- Frontline Supervisor
- District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS)
- Staff Officer
- Enforcement, Investigation & Analysis Officer (EIAO)
- Deputy District Manager
- District Manager
- Assistant Administrator
- Administrator

For more information on other career pathways visit: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/careers/opportunities-and-types-of-jobs/veterinary-opportunities/Roles
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>As a Public Health Veterinarian</th>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
<th>As a Private Practice Veterinarian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual pay raises, and time and ½ for overtime work</td>
<td>☑ SALARY</td>
<td>Inconsistent raises / No overtime pay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment bonuses &amp; Moving expenses</td>
<td>☑ RECRUITMENT BONUS</td>
<td>No recruitment bonuses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid vacation, sick leave and 10 Federal Holidays</td>
<td>☑ VACATION</td>
<td>No paid leave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized health and life insurance*</td>
<td>☑ HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE</td>
<td>Provide your own life/health insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Employees Retirement System (defined benefit)*</td>
<td>☑ RETIREMENT FUND</td>
<td>Provide your own retirement fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Savings Plan* (Automatic 1% &amp; matching for up to an additional 5%)</td>
<td>☑ 401K</td>
<td>Personal Savings/No matching funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered under Social Security*</td>
<td>☑ SOCIAL SECURITY &amp; MEDICARE</td>
<td>Covered under Social Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The total value of benefits received by a GS-11 Public Health Veterinarian earning $58,562 is approximately $23,424 or 40% of the employee's salary.
# PHV vs Private Practice Benefits Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>As a Public Health Veterinarian</strong></th>
<th><strong>Benefits (Work / Life Issues)</strong></th>
<th><strong>As a Private Practice Veterinarian</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training is priority for the agency</td>
<td>✔ TRAINING</td>
<td>Training at your own expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numerous opportunities for promotions</td>
<td>✔ CAREER ADVANCEMENT</td>
<td>Limited promotion opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set, yet flexible work schedule</td>
<td>✔ WORK SCHEDULE</td>
<td>Work long hours on call 24/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting our Nation’s Public Health</td>
<td>✔ PERSONAL SATISFACTION</td>
<td>Repetition can be unsatisfying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Veterinarian Mentor and recruiter</td>
<td>✔ LEADERSHIP ROLES</td>
<td>Few opportunities for leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker in schools and for civic organizations</td>
<td>✔ OUTREACH</td>
<td>Minimal time available for outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation subsidies available</td>
<td>✔ TRANSIT SUBSIDIES</td>
<td>Transportation at your own expense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details on qualification requirements and an application, please call us at 1-800-370-3747 or you may apply online at www.foodsafetyjobs.gov
Pathways Programs includes:

- **Internship Program**: Summer paid internships. To qualify students must be in good academic standing, enrolled at least half-time at a qualifying educational institution, must submit college transcript with their application. Students may be converted to term or permanent employees after completing their college degree.

- **Recent Graduates Program**: Targets students who have recently graduated from College. To be eligible, applicants must apply within 2 years of degree completion. Veterans will have 6 years after degree completion to apply. Students will be placed in a 2-year career development program. Recent Graduates may be converted to term or permanent employees after completing this program.

- **Presidential Management Fellows Program (PMF)**: Two-year appointment that provides a robust and substantive professional experience to outstanding individuals with advanced-degrees from a variety of academic disciplines. The PMF Program accepts applications annually. When the application window opens, you will find an announcement on USAJOBS.

- All Pathways opportunities are announced at www.usajobs.gov
FSIS Volunteer Student Program:
- Provide students with valuable career-related work experience in a public health regulatory agency while earning school credit.
- Individuals serving as student volunteers will develop a work agreement in collaboration with their school and FSIS.
- This non-paid educational opportunity usually lasts 2 to 4 weeks and can be completed throughout the calendar year depending on the student’s schedule and the program availability.
- To apply, send resume, unofficial transcripts, location of interest, available dates, and desired duties to fsisstudentjobs@fsis.usda.gov

Third Party Internships:
- Under the third-party internship providers utilized at FSIS, interns are not considered Federal employees but contractors.
- Third-party provided interns should get the same access to training, career development, and mentoring as other Agency interns. These programs typically provide stipends for interns.
- Some third-party internships utilized at FSIS are:
  - Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) for College Students with Disabilities
  - Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Internship Program (HACU)
  - Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS)
Qualifications & Salary

- U.S. Citizenship
- Veterinary Degree or equivalent:
  - starting salary GS-11: $58,562 to $76,131 + OT (if any)
  - additional % added to pay for some parts of the country (locality pay)
- Veterinary Degree plus a related Masters degree OR Veterinary degree plus one year Veterinary work experience equivalent to GS-11:
  - will qualify for GS-12: $70,192 to $91,255 + OT (if any)

*Salaries may be higher depending on geographical locations
In ALL locations for entry level veterinarian positions:

- Creditable service for annual leave accrual
- Paid moving expenses to first duty location
- In some locations, there is a tiered bonus for up to 3 additional years.
How to find out about FSIS jobs

www.foodsafetyjobs.gov