

Public Health Veterinarian Careers



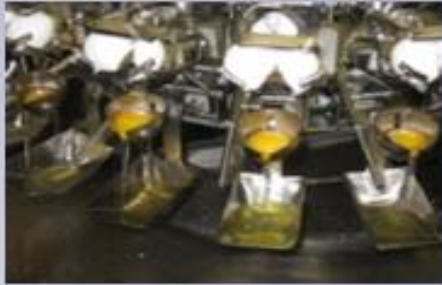
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service
Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety & Defense

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)



FSIS Statistics

- ✦ Public Health Veterinarians

 - ✦ approximately 1,000

- ✦ Inspectors

 - ✦ approximately 7,000

- ✦ Inspects

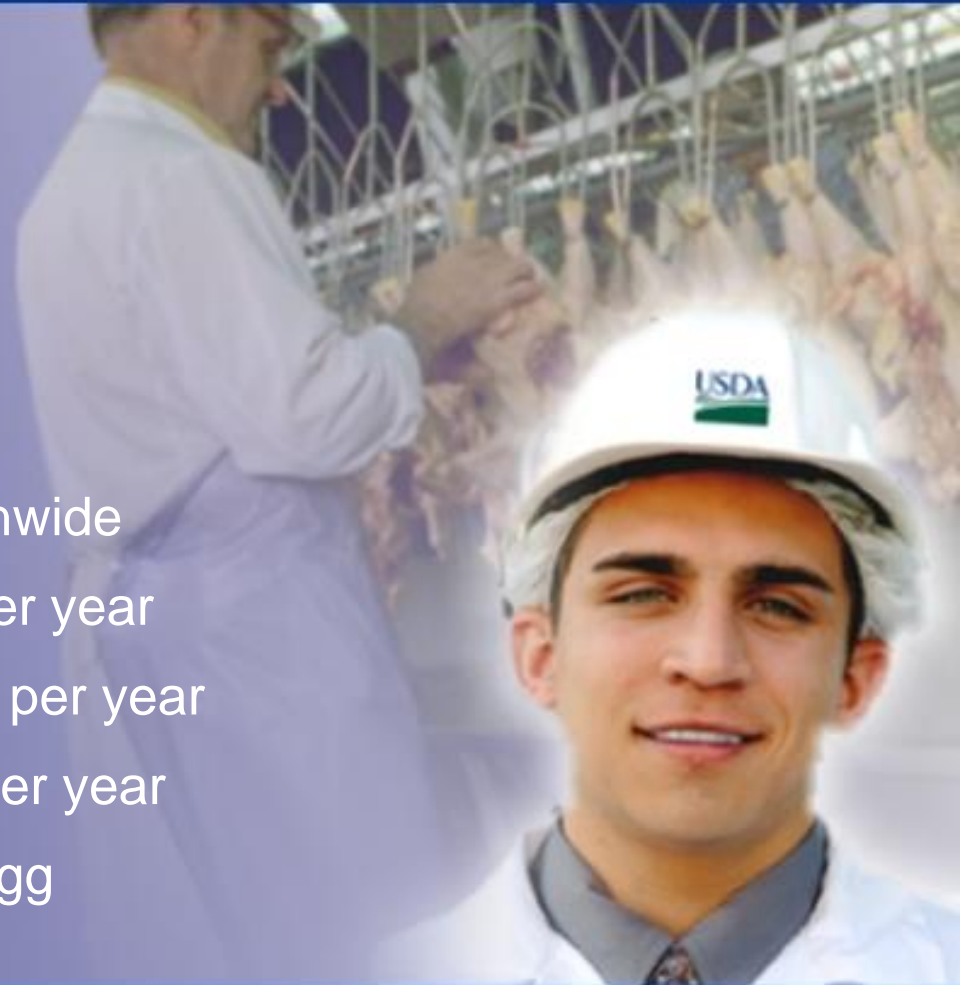
 - ✦ approximately 6,000 plants nationwide

 - ✦ 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

USDA INSPECTOR

USDA

INSPECTION OPERATIONS

Office of Field Operations,
Inspection Operations Nationwide



Veterinary Public Health



- ✦ 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

Veterinary Public Health



- ✦ 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>

PHV vs Private Practice Benefits Comparison

AS A PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN

Annual pay raises, and time and ½ for overtime work

Recruitment bonuses & Moving expenses

Paid vacation, sick leave and 10 Federal Holidays

Subsidized health and life insurance*

Federal Employees Retirement System (defined benefit)*

Thrift Savings Plan*
(Automatic 1% & matching for up to an additional 5%)

Covered under Social Security*

BENEFITS

✓ SALARY

✓ RECRUITMENT BONUS

✓ VACATION

✓ HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE

✓ RETIREMENT FUND

✓ 401K

✓ SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE

AS A PRIVATE PRACTICE VETERINARIAN

Inconsistent raises / No overtime pay

No recruitment bonuses

No paid leave

Provide your own life/health insurance

Provide your own retirement fund

Personal Savings/No matching funds

Covered under Social Security



*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

AS A PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN

Training is priority for the agency

Numerous opportunities for promotions

Set, yet flexible work schedule

Protecting our Nation's Public Health

Public Health Veterinarian Mentor and recruiter

Speaker in schools and for civic organizations

Public Transportation subsidies available

BENEFITS (WORK / LIFE ISSUES)

✓ TRAINING

✓ CAREER ADVANCEMENT

✓ WORK SCHEDULE

✓ PERSONAL SATISFACTION

✓ LEADERSHIP ROLES

✓ OUTREACH

✓ TRANSIT SUBSIDIES

AS A PRIVATE PRACTICE VETERINARIAN

Training at your own expense

Limited promotion opportunities

Work long hours on call 24/7

Repetition can be unsatisfying

Few opportunities for leadership

Minimal time available for outreach

Transportation at your own expense



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

Employment Opportunities for Students

- ◆ 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



Employment Opportunities for Students

◆ **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)

Recruitment Incentives

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

