



# LOOKING FOR A CHANGE?

More and more veterinarians, both recent graduates and those who have been in private practice are exploring public health as a career option. Many of you might wonder if you have the right background to be a Public Health Veterinarian with the USDA'S Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Don't worry, your veterinary education has provided you with the scientific background that is valued and needed within FSIS. Additionally, FSIS provides all employees with orientation and training programs to help you apply your skills in our public health regulatory environment. FSIS is the largest employer of veterinarians in the country, offers an excellent benefits package, and is always seeking applicants to fill current and future vacancies all across the country.

## FSIS Veterinarians

FSIS veterinarians are public health professionals who help oversee the effectiveness of food safety systems. Your veterinary knowledge and expertise are used to advise animal producers and regulated establishments on the effectiveness of food safety controls on the farm, during live animal transport/handling, and throughout the entire meat or poultry production process. Most FSIS veterinarians work in meat and poultry plants where they enforce federal meat and poultry inspection procedures. These veterinarians serve as leaders of a dynamic team made up of food inspectors and consumer safety inspectors. Together the team ensures that the establishments that they work in meet requirements of the Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulations.

Veterinary public health officials also oversee other consumer protection requirements including the proper labeling of all FSIS regulated products. Additionally, these veterinarians are the subject matter experts on the detection of various carcass and visceral pathological lesions to ensure that all animals entering the food supply are safe and wholesome.

Your veterinary education and experience is valued and needed in our Agency. Additionally, career opportunities exist for veterinarians to serve as executive leaders, international liaisons, and program managers. Veterinarians within FSIS also serve on teams which investigate outbreaks of foodborne illness in collaboration with local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Apply to join the team today and see what future opportunities are available, visit: [www.foodsafetyjobs.gov](http://www.foodsafetyjobs.gov).

## About FSIS

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome and correctly labeled and packaged. For more information visit: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

# A REWARDING JOB WITH GREAT BENEFITS

There are many reasons why more than 1,000 veterinarians have chosen FSIS as their career choice. For many it is the variety of rewarding career opportunities that FSIS offers veterinarians. For others, FSIS provides a work-life balance to meet their individual goals and needs including generous annual and sick leave programs, a variety of affordable health care programs, and a competitive salary. Overall, this makes FSIS an attractive option for veterinarians at all stages of their career. Starting salaries range from 59-90K with select duty stations having overtime opportunities resulting in significantly higher income potential. Besides providing for today, FSIS also has a 3-tiered retirement program to help ensure retirement goals and needs can be met. Signing bonuses also exist for select locations. To learn more about what FSIS veterinarians do and find out where current vacancies exist please call [215-597-4219](tel:215-597-4219) or [Johnny.IvanovichNunez@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Johnny.IvanovichNunez@fsis.usda.gov)

## Our Benefits Include:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Salary                      | Competitive starting salary based on education and relevant experience. All overtime is paid time and a half.  |
| Annual Leave                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> years of service: 13 days of paid vacation per year.</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> years of service: 20 days of paid vacation per year.</li> <li>• After the 15<sup>th</sup> year: 26 days of paid vacation per year.</li> </ul>  |
| Sick Leave                  | 13 days of sick leave each year of service, that can be carried over to the next year.   |
| Holidays                    | 10 paid federal holidays a year.   |
| Health Care Benefits        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Insurance: FSIS provides a wide range of individual and family medical insurance plans. The government pays part of the cost of premiums. You can elect long-term care insurance, dental and vision plans.</li> <li>• Flexible spending accounts: A flexible spending account allows you to put aside some of your pre-tax salary to pay for any eligible health care expenses not covered by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, such as over-the-counter medications or plan premiums.</li> </ul>   |
| Life Insurance              | Term life insurance coverage. Basic coverage is based on annual salary and cost is shared between you and the government. In addition, there are three forms of optional insurance you can elect.  |
| Retirement                  | <p>Coverage by the Federal Employees Retirement System, a 3-tiered plan composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic benefits plan: Each pay period you'll pay a small amount to the Basic Benefit Plan and your agency will pay one percent of your annual pay. This plan also provides for long-term disability and survivor benefits for your spouse and children. You must have worked at least five years in the federal government to receive retirement benefits from the Basic Benefit Plan.</li> <li>• Thrift Savings Plan (TSP): TSP offers benefits similar to a traditional 401(k) plan. Whether or not you choose to contribute to this account, your agency will contribute one percent of your salary. They will also match a certain amount of what you personally contribute each pay period, up to five percent of your salary.</li> <li>• Social Security: As you progress in your career, you will earn credit for your Social Security account and pay taxes for this program in full. Social Security will supply you with many benefits including disability and protection for your survivors.</li> </ul> |
| Employee Assistance Program | A free, voluntary service to help employees address issues that negatively affects their job performance and personal health. Staffed by professional counselors, EAPs help employees overcome problems like alcohol and drug abuse, work and family pressures, and job stress.  |
| Child and Dependent Care    | There are many different programs available to federal employees for child and/or dependent care.  |
| Incentives                  | Relocation expenses and creditable service for annual leave accrual. For hard-to-fill locations we also offer a tiered incentive.  |