

ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN I (LIVESTOCK)

This is regulatory work in programs pertaining to the detection, control and eradication of livestock diseases. Employees inspect cattle and swine at public livestock markets, supervise the brucellosis backtagging program, conduct blood tests on cattle not sold for immediate slaughter, and inspect garbage feeding establishments within an assigned area. Responsibilities include inspecting market facilities for adequate sanitation and proper record-keeping procedures, issuance of quarantines and shipping permits, tracing diseased livestock back to the farm of origin, and providing assistance to veterinarians involved in field regulatory activities. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Livestock Inspection Supervisor and the technical supervision of a field veterinarian. Work is evaluated through observation of work and review of written reports.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED:

Inspects cattle and swine arriving at public livestock markets for visible signs of disease; quarantines livestock not physically fit for trade; channels back to the farm of origin.

Tests cattle not sold for immediate slaughter for brucellosis; brands brucellosis reactors back to farm of origin or consigns such for immediate slaughter.

Ensures that eligible cattle are properly backtagged at the market for identification; uses backtags to trace cattle back to farm of origin should disease be found at the time of slaughter.

Inspects market facilities for sanitation and structural defects; ensures that pens used for feeder pigs are cleaned and disinfected before each sale; notifies market management of any violation of laws, rules or regulation.

Monitors all garbage feeding establishments in the assigned area for proper and acceptable sanitation, cooking equipment, temperatures, and management; points out violations to operators; quarantines swine when major violations are detected.

Provides assistance to field veterinarians in testing cattle on farms for brucellosis and tuberculosis and in testing swine on farms for brucellosis.

Inspects daily hop buying stations for adequate records and sanitation; points out discrepancies to the operator.

Monitors interstate shipments of livestock for compliance with State and Federal regulations.

Gathers evidence in cases of flagrant, repeated violations of animal health laws, rules and regulations; presents court testimony as needed.

Performs related duties as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Considerable knowledge of State and Federal regulations pertaining to the control and eradication of livestock diseases. Considerable knowledge of modern principles and practices relating to livestock management. General knowledge of modern practices of livestock market operations. Ability to detect signs and symptoms of diseases in livestock. Ability to instruct livestock owners and market operators in the proper methods of sanitation and management as means of preventing the occurrence of disease. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with livestock owners, buyers, market operators and State and Federal officials. Ability to complete required records and reports.

Minimum Education and Experience

Graduation from high school and three years experience in the production, management or sale of livestock; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Note: This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.