

Animal Health Technical Expert for the Caribbean Region

The Animal Population Health Institute (APHI) in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University invites applications for an Animal Health Technical Expert with an emphasis on providing specialized technical expertise in the gathering of available information/data throughout the Caribbean region and collected in a central location. It is critical that this technical expert work closely with all regional organizations and stakeholders. The successful candidate will be part of an international, interdisciplinary team responsible for the development and application of scientific infrastructure of a regional animal health program which would include response systems monitoring, and technical institutional capacity. The successful candidate will be stationed at the University of the West Indies in Port Spain, Trinidad for a 12-month assignment with the option to renew the position if funding is available. Required qualifications include:

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) (or equivalent) degree;
- Master of Science degree in epidemiology;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills;
- Understanding of production systems in the Caribbean;
- Knowledge of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement and main trade flows in the Caribbean.

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the risk assessment process and have the ability to work in a team environment composed of personnel from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Starting salary will be commensurate with experience. Benefits are included.

Interested applicants must submit a cover letter, a curriculum vitae or resume, and names and contact information for three references electronically to morna.mynard@colostate.edu. Applications must be received by January 31, 2010 to receive full consideration.

Colorado State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and complies with all Federal and Colorado State laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding affirmative action requirements in all programs. The Office of Equal Opportunity is located in 101 Student Services. In order to assist Colorado State University in meeting its affirmative action responsibilities, ethnic minorities, women and other protected class members are encouraged to apply and to so identify themselves.

Colorado State University is committed to providing a safe and productive learning and living community. To achieve that goal, we conduct background investigations for all final candidates being considered for employment. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search and motor vehicle history.

Background:

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) ministers have stated that food security in the region is a top priority, achieved through increasing intra-regional and international trade with safeguard measures against exotic pests and diseases. Increased trade cannot occur without proper adoption and enforcement of international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards. Agricultural trade, both intra-regional and international, must be safe and based on risk assessment and effective mitigation measures. Systems to deal with the threat of invasive species, as well as other emerging pests/pathogens that directly affect farm production, agricultural trade, and food safety need to be coordinated throughout the region.

The USDA will carry out cooperative activities with partners in the Caribbean region to strengthen food security throughout the region by supporting measures to prevent, detect, mitigate and respond to biological and chemical contamination causing disease in animals, plants, or affecting food safety. These cooperative efforts with the Caribbean Basin countries will help strengthen existing regional animal and plant health organizations and improve the safety of domestic, imported, and exported food supplies, thereby enhancing international trade and strengthening food security.

The Animal Population Health Institute of Colorado State University was awarded a cooperative agreement from USDA with the aim to strengthen the infrastructure of animal health program in the region including monitoring response systems, and technical institutional capacity. Part of this cooperative agreement is to have an animal health technical expert to be stationed in Trinidad with the aim to provide specialized technical expertise in the gathering of available information/data throughout the Caribbean region which will be collected in a central location. It is critical that the technical expert work closely with all regional organizations and stakeholders.

The specific tasks for this technical expert will include:

- 1) Work with Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) in the region on risk analysis (RA).
- 2) Run the qualitative RA, and identify the data which exists and which does not exist to conduct the quantitative RA with the five priority (CARICOM/CVOs) products/animals, construct/design the RA structures.
- 3) Lead a discussion and look for consensus as to when the region would require a quantitative/qualitative RA.
- 4) Lead the discussion concerning when country specific RAs are appropriate and when regional RAs are appropriate.
- 5) Prepare and assist in the implementation of training tools/course as needed (e.g. practical training, role plays, case studies, etc.)

6) Coordinate all training, analysis, and data collection with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regional representative, Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office, CARICOM and the USDA/FAS project manager.