Are you a college student interested in animal and plant health? Would you like to learn about the many career paths open in agriculture and natural resources? We have a unique opportunity for you.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has internships available within our Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, also known as “APHIS.” We have partnered with several Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and other Native American-Serving Institutions (NASIs) to offer this opportunity for college students. Successful applicants receive a paid, 8-week summer position with APHIS at one of our offices around the country. It’s a chance to gain valuable, first-hand experience in APHIS’ day-to-day work, as well as insights into public service and working for a Federal agency.

For general information about APHIS and our programs, contact:

Terry W. Clark, DVM
Director
Office of the National Tribal Liaison
terryw.clark@usda.gov
(301) 440-4388

Carl Etsitty
Assistant Director
Office of the National Tribal Liaison
carl.etsitty@usda.gov
(970) 494-7573

Native American-Serving Institutions Internship Program

Shaping the Future of Agriculture by Investing in Students
What Does an Intern Do?
Base on career interests and skills, accepted student interns work with one of APHIS’ occupational programs (Animal Care, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Wildlife Services, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, International Services, and Veterinary Services) or one of our support units (Legislative and Public Affairs, Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, and Policy and Program Development). Interns get professional experience in such areas as: field work (e.g., pest surveys, disease eradication, wildlife management); laboratory research; administration; data analysis; budget and accounting; communications and outreach; and other technical and scientific work related to agricultural health.

APHIS pays for all travel and housing costs during the internship.

To Apply
Submit a complete application package to a participating school (see list below) that includes the following:

- Résumé
- Letter of Interest
- Unofficial transcript
- Three letters of recommendation
- Copies of degrees, certificates, or diplomas (e.g., Associate’s Degree, General Educational Development, High School)
- An application form (available directly from any participating school)

Eligibility
Each applicant must be:

- A U.S. citizen,
- Currently enrolled in a qualifying educational institution at least part time, and
- In good academic standing, having at least a 2.5 grade point average.

To obtain and submit an application, contact one of these participating schools:

Navajo Technical University (New Mexico)
Dr. Germaine Daye, Associate Professor of Veterinary Technology
Director of NTU Teaching Hospital
gdaye@navajotech.edu ▶ (505) 786-4150

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
(New Mexico)
Dorothy Wester, Department Chair
Advanced Technical Education
dorothy.wester@nie.edu ▶ (505) 346-7731

University of North Carolina at Pembroke
(North Carolina)
Lawrence Locklear, Program Coordinator
Southeast American Indian Studies Program
lawrence.locklear@uncp.edu ▶ (910) 775-4579

Diné College (Arizona)
Benita Liston, Director
Diné College Land Grant Office
bliston@dinecollege.edu ▶ (928) 724-6940

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (Minnesota)
Courtney Kowalczak, Director
Environmental Institute
courtneyk@fdltcc.edu ▶ (218) 879-0862

About APHIS
Our Mission: To protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is a multi-faceted agency with a broad mission area that includes protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. These efforts support the overall mission of USDA, which is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues. To learn more, visit www.aphis.usda.gov.

Operational Program Units
Animal Care (AC) ▶ Determines and promotes standards of humane care and treatment of animals through inspections and educational efforts

Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) ▶ Protects agricultural and natural resources by ensuring safe development of genetically engineered organisms using a science-based regulatory framework

International Services and Trade Support Team (IS) ▶ Provides international animal and plant health expertise to safeguard American agricultural health and promote U.S. agricultural trade

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) ▶ Safeguards agriculture and natural resources from risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of pests and noxious weeds

Veterinary Services (VS) ▶ Protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation’s animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics by preventing, controlling, and/or eliminating animal diseases and by monitoring and promoting animal health and productivity

Wildlife Services (WS) ▶ Provides leadership to resolve wildlife conflicts and create a balance allowing people and wildlife to coexist

Management Support Units
Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) ▶ Manages communications with Congress, State leadership, industry stakeholders, trading partners, and the media

Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services (MRPBS) ▶ Provides resource management and administrative services to support APHIS and other agencies in USDA’s Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area

Policy and Program Development (PPD) ▶ Analyzes policies and develops budgets and regulations for APHIS that are consistent with the agency’s environmental stewardship goals and legal authorities and conducts critical evaluations and reviews to ensure programs are operating efficiently and effectively