

DESCRIPTION: Under general direction, administers the federal-state cooperative Market Cattle Identification (MCI) program, Pseudorabies Control Program, and the Captive Cervid Program, which are responsible for the surveillance of cattle, swine and captive cervids in monitoring and identifying Brucellosis, Pseudorabies, Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease infected animals. Administers all other State and federal programs relating to the surveillance, control and/or eradication of animal diseases; assists the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry in conducting epidemiological investigations for disease outbreaks; develops specific testing protocol/procedures to be used in the detection of animal disease; monitors livestock disease outbreaks to determine their cause and develop a program to control the spread and eradication of the disease; performs related work as assigned.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do these examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Consults with field personnel to develop a herd plan, including authorized actions (legal or administrative) if the herd owner does not comply, to control and/or eradicate the disease condition in the herd.

Consults with field veterinarians, field personnel and central office personnel to maintain an accurate and functioning brucellosis, tuberculosis, scrapie and chronic wasting disease surveillance system to assist in detection and eradication such diseases.

Reviews all field investigations and test results for all regulated animal diseases to ensure that the disease has been eradicated from the infected animals and that all proper procedures have been implemented.

Evaluates all field tests results received by the Nebraska Bureau of Animal Industry from the University of Nebraska Laboratory, the National Veterinary Service Laboratory and other federal and/or State laboratories to determine if further testing and/or investigation is necessary.

Directs the MCI program to ensure Nebraska maintains or exceeds federal standards for a "Class A" brucellosis status and a "Class Free" tuberculosis status of cattle herds in Nebraska.

Participates in developing and revising Nebraska statutes and administrative rules that pertain to animal diseases, animal importation and livestock market activities.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: federal and State regulations relating to animal diseases; movement of livestock; veterinary science; immunology; laboratory testing procedures for animal diseases; epidemiology principles and practices related to the surveillance, investigative techniques and proper prevention and control techniques for diseases and infections; epidemiological study methodologies and protocols.

Ability to: conduct epidemiological studies; communicate with livestock producers, veterinarians and legislative personnel; interpret and analyze animal disease test reactions; prepare studies and reports; manage animal disease programs; technically supervise field staff.

G47240 – AGRICULTURE ANIMAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST (continued)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from an accredited school of veterinary medicine or equivalent and coursework/training in public health epidemiology immunology.

Licensed as a Veterinarian in the State of Nebraska.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Regular overnight and/or day travel outside the city of residence may be required of incumbents in this job.

Specific positions in this class may require an employee to possess a valid driver's license or the ability to provide independent authorized transportation in order to perform work related travel.

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).