



GIPSA – Packers and Stockyards Programs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Job Announcement Number: CIPPS-2009-0003

POSITION: Agricultural Economist
Full Time
Federal Career Intern Program

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0110-9
Promotion potential: GS-12

OPEN PERIOD: 11/03/2009 to 11/09/2009
**Application packages must be postmarked 11/09/2009*

DUTY LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

SALARY: Range for GS-9: \$48,545 to \$63,109

MAIL OR FAX TO: USDA, MRP, HRO, Staffing
100 North Sixth Street, Suite 510C
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Fax: (612) 336-3560

**Application materials must be postmarked by the closing date of the announcement. Faxed applications must be received at the fax number listed by midnight Central Time of the closing date.*

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED

This announcement is open to all United States citizens.

APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION

This position is a 2-year internship in the excepted service. Upon successful completion of the internship, interns may be eligible for permanent placement with the agency without further competition. During the 2-year internship this appointment does not confer all of the opportunities usually associated with the competitive service such as tenure and transfer privileges. However, the selectee will be entitled to health and life insurance benefits, retirement benefits and leave accrual.



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MAJOR DUTIES

The duties described are for the full-performance level. At developmental grade levels, assignments will be of more limited scope, performed with less independence and limited complexity.

The Packers and Stockyards Programs (P&SP) administers the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (Act), as amended. The Act is a fair trade practice and financial protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries. The Act requires that stockyard companies, auction markets, livestock market agencies, livestock dealers, poultry processors and live poultry dealers, whose operations are subject to the Act, maintain such records as will disclose in detail all transactions involved in their business including their true ownership. Regional offices are responsible for carrying out assigned functions and activities in the enforcement of the provisions of the Act and regulations issued under its authority. The incumbent serves as an Agricultural Economist in the regional office and carries out enforcement of competitive and trade practice provisions of the Act primarily by conducting economic impact and analysis studies associated with the livestock, meat, and poultry industry.

Major duties include, but are not limited to:

- Plans, organizes, and conducts complex economic investigations of anti-competitive, unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive practices in the livestock, live poultry, and meat markets to identify potential violations of the Act.
- Develops and implements analytical techniques for sophisticated, proactive monitoring of price and other characteristics of livestock, poultry, and meat markets to indicate when market manipulation may be occurring. Applies economic theory as it relates to markets for livestock, live poultry, and meats.
- Performs investigations of the competitive impact of marketing and procurement practices. Identifies economic research objectives for Agency use in surveillance and investigations. Maintains a current knowledge of structure, performance, marketing conditions, and behavior in the livestock, poultry, and meat industries.
- Performs scheduled competition investigations of the registrants, packers, and/or live poultry dealers subject to the Act. Reviews relevant published articles that may enhance the surveillance and investigative activities of the Agency.
- Works with attorneys in conducting investigations, preparing investigative reports, compiling evidence, and preparing proposed complaints for use in formal litigation. Serves as technical expert in reviewing and resolving economic issues specific to investigations.

REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Citizenship
- Males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with the selective service.
- DD214 or other veteran's documents required to receive veterans' preference
- Transcripts must be submitted for this position
- Travel may be required



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SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- **As a condition of employment, appropriate security clearance is required for this position.**

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT

To qualify, all applicants MUST meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of the announcement.

BASIC REQUIREMENT:

Applicants must have a degree in Economics, from an accredited college or university that includes at least 21 semester hours in economics and 3 semester hours in statistics, accounting or calculus.

OR

Combination of education and experience - courses equivalent to a major in economics, as shown above, from an accredited college or university plus appropriate experience or additional education.

IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS, AT THE GS-9 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent in level of difficulty and responsibility to the next lower grade level in the Federal service. This experience is typically in, or related to, the work of the position being filled.

OR

EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THE GS-9 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicants must have 2 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a Master's or master's or equivalent graduate degree from an accredited college or university in appropriate coursework or a closely related field such as agricultural business, agricultural education, agricultural economics, animal science, or

OR

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-9 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicants may have equivalent combinations of successfully completed, progressively higher, closely related, graduate level education from an accredited college or university and specialized experience to meet the total qualification requirements.



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HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED – RANKING FACTORS

Please address all of the following factors in your application. Your answers will help determine your rating. You may receive a lower rating if you fail to address any of the factors.

- 1. Please list your Grade Point Average(s) for any post high school degree(s) you have received.**
- 2. Please include all of your work experience in your resume.**
- 3. Please list any type of community service you have performed.**
- 4. Please list any experience you have leading or supervising an organization or business. (Examples: office holder in an organization, leader of a group or sports activity, shift supervisor position, etc.)**
- 5. Please list any awards you have received.**

HOW TO APPLY

A complete application will require the submission of the following:

- 1. Resume that includes:**
 - **dates of employment (M/D/Y)**
 - **hours per week**
 - **Include series and grade level for all federal civilian employment**
- 2. Responses to the Ranking Factors**
- 3. Supporting Documentation (See *Required Documents* section for more information)**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Documentation of Education: Documentation of education is required if you are qualifying for the position based on education rather than or in addition to experience, or you are claiming Superior Academic Achievement (SAA) to qualify at the GS-7 level (as explained in the Qualifications section.)

What to submit:

- **College transcripts; or**
- **A copy of your college diploma (reflecting the field of study, if a specific degree is required); or**
- **A list of all college courses with grades and credits (indicate quarter/semester hours and GPA). (NOTE: If the position you are applying to requires specific hours of coursework or you are claiming Superior Academic (SAA) achievement for a GS-7 position, you MUST submit a transcript or a list of college courses); or**

*****All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation**



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NOTE: Foreign education must be evaluated by an approved organization. The U.S. Department of Education may be of some help in providing information on these organizations. Visit the U.S. Department of Education at the following web site:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/us/edlite-visitus-forrecog.html>

***Veterans' Preference Documents:* If you are claiming Veterans' Preference, you must submit the following proof of eligibility:**

- **Five Point Preference: DD-214 (Please submit the DD-214 (Member Copy 4) for the period of service which you are claiming Veterans Preference)**
- **Ten Point Preference: DD-214 (Please submit the DD-214 (Member Copy 4) for the period of service which you are claiming Veterans Preference), Standard Form 15 (Application for 10-Point Veterans Preference) and the proof requested on the Standard Form 15. For an on-line exact replica of Standard Form 15, visit: http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF15.pdf**

Applicants who don't have a DD-214 because they are on active duty must include the following information in their application:

- **Dates of service (e.g. 1/5/08 to present);**
- **Branch of Service; and**
- **Rank and a description of duties and responsibilities.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Qualifications: Additional information is available on OPM's website at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications>**
- **Veterans Preference: Additional information is available in the Vet Guide on OPM's website at <http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp>**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Human Resources: Sarah Lynch

Phone: (612) 336-3406

E-mail: Sarah.M.Lynch@aphis.usda.gov



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SPECIAL NOTES

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities.

If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.