

Biological Science Laboratory Technician

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Open & closing dates

🕒 09/28/2018 to 10/16/2018

Pay scale & grade

GS 08 - 09

Appointment type

Permanent

Locations

1 vacancy in the following location:

Manhattan, KS

1 vacancy

Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

Service

Competitive

Salary

\$45,810 to \$65,778 per year

Work schedule

Full-Time

Telework eligible

Yes as determined by agency policy

This job is open to



The public

U.S. citizens, nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

Announcement number

ARS-S18Y-0213

Control number

512497000

Duties

Summary

This position is located in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Anthropod-Bourne Animal Diseases Research Unit (ABADRU), in Manhattan, KS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: USAJOBS will be down beginning at **12:01 AM ET on Friday, October 5th, 2018** and will be back up and running no later than **11:59 PM ET on Monday, October 8th, 2018**. Please plan accordingly as the announcement closes at 11:59 PM ET on Tuesday, **October 16th, 2018**.

Responsibilities

ABADRU conducts research on the surveillance and management of domestic livestock pathogens that are transmitted by insects (biting flies and mosquitoes). Insect-borne diseases cause significant economic loss and pose a constant threat to the U.S. livestock industry. New methods and products will be developed and compared to established techniques and materials.

The incumbent of this position will actively participate in one or more phases of the research process by performing a variety of complex technical duties in a laboratory and field environment working with live insects.

Major Duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Collects insect samples in a field environment.
- Sorts and identifies insect collections to the species classification.
- Maintains and rears large populations or colonies of insects and arthropods for disease vector research and scientific studies.
- Tests new and established products (insecticides) and techniques (treatment methods) for efficacy.
- Identifies physical features from live insect samples and prepares the insects for study in a laboratory environment.
- Keeps exact, detailed records of experimental data. Tabulates, statistically analyzes and summarizes data using personal computers and software packages.
- Interprets and documents findings by preparing information to be included in manuscripts or preparing reports summarizing progress or results of research.

Travel Required

Occasional travel - Occasional travel required for training and meetings

Supervisory status

No

Promotion Potential

09

Job family (Series)

[0404 Biological Science Technician](#)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov//Search/?j=0404>).

Requirements

Conditions Of Employment

- You must be a US Citizen or US National.
- Satisfactory background investigation and/or fingerprint check
- Selective Service Registration is required for males born after 12/31/1959.

Subject to satisfactory completion of a one-year probationary period.

Physical Demands

The work requires some physical exertion, such as regular and recurring walking or bending. In many situations, the duration of the activity (such as most of a workday) contributes to the arduous nature of the job. In other situations, there may be special requirements for agility or dexterity such as exceptional hand/eye coordination.

Work Environment

The work involves regular and recurring moderate risks or discomforts which require special safety precautions, e.g. working with contagious diseases or irritant chemicals or working outdoors. The employee is required to use protective clothing such as gowns, coats, boots, goggles, gloves.

Qualifications

Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the closing date of the announcement including the following specialized experience and/or education, as identified by grade level.

Specialized Experience: Specialized experience is experience directly related to the position to be filled. Specialized experience must be described for each grade level advertised. The specialized experience requirements for this position are:

At the GS-8:

Qualifying experience for GS-8 includes one year of specialized experience comparable to GS-7 which is directly related to the work of this position and which has equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position. For this position, specialized experience is experience participating in a biological research project which includes collecting, evaluating and identifying insect samples; rearing insects for scientific study; and preparing summaries of experimental data findings.

OR

Education: Two full years of graduate level education or a Master's degree, if directly related to the position. Related degrees may include Biology, Agricultural Science, Entomology, or other science degree that included the study of insects.

OR

A combination of education and experience as described above.

At the GS-9:

Qualifying experience for GS-9 includes one year of specialized experience comparable to GS-8 which is directly related to the work of this position and which has equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position. For this position, specialized experience is experience conducting a biological science research project which includes collecting, evaluating and identifying insect samples; rearing insect colonies for scientific study; and preparing reports and peer-reviewed manuscripts which summarize research progress and results.

OR

Education: Two full years of graduate level education or a Master's degree, if directly related to the position. Related degrees may include Biology, Agricultural Science, Entomology, or other science degree that included the study of insects.

OR

A combination of education and experience as described above.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

Education

Additional information

More than one selection may be made if another vacancy occurs within 90 days of the issuance of the certification of eligibles.

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

Direct Deposit – Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to a financial institution of your choosing.

E-Verify: Federal law requires agencies to use the E-Verify system to confirm the employment eligibility of all new hires. If you are selected as a newly hired employee, the documentation you present for purposes of completing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form 1-9 on your entry-on-duty date will be verified through the DHS E-VERIFY system. Under the system, the new hire is required to resolve any identified discrepancies as a condition of continued employment.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION AND FINGERPRINT CHECK:

Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check) and a background investigation.

It is the policy of the Government not to deny employment simply because an individual has been unemployed or has had financial difficulties that have arisen through no fault of the individual. See more information at: <http://www.chcoc.gov/transmittals/TransmittalDetails.aspx?TransmittalID=6465> (<http://www.chcoc.gov/transmittals/TransmittalDetails.aspx?TransmittalID=6465>).

Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP), Reemployment Priority List (RPL) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP): For information on how to apply as a CTAP, RPL or ICTAP eligibility see <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/> (<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/>).

. To exercise selection priority for this vacancy, CTAP/RPL/ICTAP candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements and all selective factors. CTAP/ICTAP candidates must be rated and determined to be well qualified (or above) based on an evaluation of the competencies listed in the How You Will Be Evaluated section. When assessed through a score-based category rating method, CTAP/ICTAP applicants must receive a rating of at least 85 out of a possible 100.

This position is eligible for telework and other flexible work arrangements.

Relocation expenses are not authorized.

If you are selected for a position with further promotion potential, you will be placed under a career development plan, and may be non-competitively promoted if you successfully complete the requirements and if recommended by management. However, promotion is neither implied nor guaranteed.

How You Will Be Evaluated

Applications will be evaluated in accordance with Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Delegated Examining Procedures using category rating. Applicants who meet basic minimum qualifications will be placed in one of two or three categories: Best Qualified, Well Qualified, or Qualified. Within these categories, applicants eligible for veteran's preference will receive selection priority over non-veterans. Category placement will be determined based on applicants' quality of experience and the extent they possess the following knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) or competencies:

- **Biology**
- **Research**
- **Writing**

These additional competencies may be assessed

- **Self-Management**
- **Teamwork**
- **Integrity/Honesty**

Your application, including the online Assessment Questionnaire, will be reviewed to determine if you meet (a) minimum qualification requirements and (b) the resume supports the answers provided to the job-specific questions. Your resume must clearly support your responses to all the questions addressing experience and education relevant to this position. Those determined to be in the best qualified category will be referred to the selecting official for consideration.

Note : If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and/or experience, your rating may be lowered to more accurately reflect the submitted documentation. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.

Clicking the link below will present a preview of the application form; i.e. the online questionnaire. The application form link below will only provide a preview and does not initiate the application process. To initiate the online application process, click the "Apply Online" button to the right.

To view the application form, visit: <https://ars.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=725F873F-7F9B-4451-A291-A96700E79423>
(<https://ars.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=725F873F-7F9B-4451-A291-A96700E79423>).

Background checks and security clearance

Security clearance

[Not Applicable](#)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/>).

Drug test required

No

Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in the mail service, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) supervisors phone number and whether or

not the supervisor may be contacted for a reference check; 5) other qualifications.

- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are private organizations that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. For a list of private organizations that evaluate education, visit <http://www.naces.org/members.htm> (<http://www.naces.org/members.htm>).
. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.
- If claiming veterans preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted. Veterans preference must be verified prior to appointment. Without this documentation, you will not receive veterans preference and your application will be evaluated based on the material(s) submitted.
- If claiming 10-point veterans preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference. For more information on veterans' preference see <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/> (<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/>).
- Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority must provide: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.

If you are relying on your education to meet qualification requirements:

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from [schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/) (<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/>).

Failure to provide all of the required information as stated in this vacancy announcement may result in an ineligible rating or may affect the overall rating.

Benefits

A career with the U.S. Government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding.

- [Benefits for federal employees](https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees#item-36407) (<https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees#item-36407>)
- [Healthcare insurance](https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/) (<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/>)
- [Pay and leave](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/pay-and-leave/) (<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/pay-and-leave/>)

The Federal Government offers a comprehensive benefits package. Explore the major benefits offered to most Federal employees at:

<https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees>
(<https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees>)

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time, or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

How to Apply

Please read the entire announcement and all instructions before you begin. You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.

Applying online is highly encouraged. We are available to assist you during business hours (normally 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. , Monday - Friday). If applying online poses a hardship, contact the Agency Contact listed below well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages must be complete and submitted no later than noon ET on the closing date of the announcement in order to be entered into the system prior to its closing.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis; contact the Agency Contact to request this.

To begin, click "Apply Online" and follow the instructions to complete the Assessment Questionnaire and attach your resume and all required documents.

NOTE: You must verify that uploaded documents from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system. Applicants may combine all like required documents (e.g., all SF-50s) into one or more files and scan for uploading into the application. Each file must not exceed 3MB. Grouping like documents into files will simplify the application process. Documents must be in one of the following formats: GIF, JPEG, JPG, PDF, PNG, RTF, or Word (DOC or DOCX). Uploaded documents may not require a password, digital signature, or other encryption to open.

Agency contact information

 David Pesta

Phone

[703-259-9412](tel:703-259-9412)

TDD

202-855-1234

Fax

000-000-0000

Email

dpesta@yrci.com

[Learn more about this agency.](#)

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