

Public Veterinary Practice:

A Career with APHIS, Veterinary Services

Krista Martin, DVM
Area Epidemiology Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services

Safeguarding Animal Health



Introduction

- Veterinary Services career opportunities
- My experience with Veterinary Services as a student and an employee

Safeguarding Animal Health



APHIS Organizational Structure



Safeguarding Animal Health



APHIS, VS Veterinary Career Opportunities

- Entry level – Field VMO GS-11/12
(depending on qualifications)
- Specialization:
 - Field: Area Epidemiology Officer (GS-13)
 - Region: Regional Epidemiologist, Import/Export Coordinator (GS-13/14)
 - Laboratory (Highly specialized)
 - CEAH: Analytical epidemiologists
 - HQ Staff Officer (GS-13/14)

Safeguarding Animal Health



APHIS, VS Veterinary Career Opportunities - Management

•Field

- AVIC (GS-13/14/15)
- Associate Regional Director (GS-15)
- Regional Director (SES)

•Headquarters

- Asst. Director/ Supervisory Staff Officer (GS-14)
- Director (GS-15)
- Deputy Administrator (SES)
- Associate Administrator (SES)

Safeguarding Animal Health



Salary

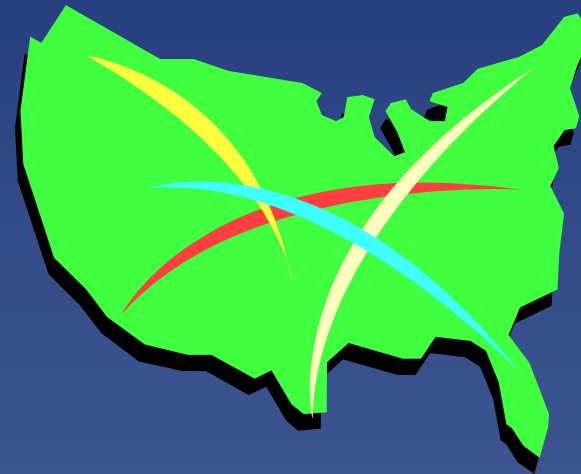
	<u>Base salary</u>	<u>Atlanta locality</u>
GS-11	\$48,148 - \$62,593	\$56,478 - \$72,422
GS-12	\$57,709 - \$72,025	\$67,693 - \$88,004
GS-13	\$68,625 - \$89,217	\$80,497 - \$104,652
GS-14	\$81,093 - \$105,420	\$95,122 - \$123,658
GS-15	\$95,390 - \$124,010	\$111,892- \$145,464

Safeguarding Animal Health



Job Locations

- In each state
- Specific locations
 - Raleigh, NC
 - Ft. Collins, CO
 - Ames, IA
 - Plum Island, NY
 - Riverdale, MD



Safeguarding Animal Health

Veterinary Services Mission

Veterinary Services 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
- monitoring and promoting animal health and productivity.

Safeguarding Animal Health



Veterinary Services functions

- Regulates entry of animals and animal products
- Emergency actions against foreign animal diseases
- Eradication programs for domestic animal diseases
- Health certificates for exported animals
- Diagnostic testing
- Licenses for veterinary biological products

Safeguarding Animal Health



A little bit about me

- MPH prior to veterinary school
- DVM in 2002
- Area Epidemiology Officer (veterinarian position) in Georgia

Safeguarding Animal Health



How I became involved with Veterinary Services while in vet school

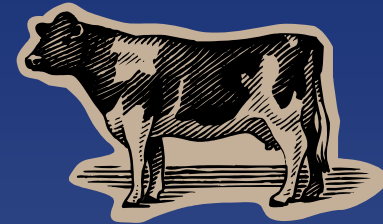
- Entered vet school with interest in public health, epidemiology and public veterinary practice
- Discovered APHIS, VS had jobs in this area
- Applied for and received Saul T. Wilson Scholarship
- Summer employment at CEAH in Ft. Collins, CO
- Summer employment at VS Area Office in Wisconsin

Safeguarding Animal Health



Activities I'm involved in as an AEO

- Surveillance
 - BSE, brucellosis, TB, etc.
- Emergency management
 - ICS
 - FAD school and FAD investigations
 - State Agriculture Response Team (SART)
- Import/export
 - Health certificates, equine exports, pet bird imports, unauthorized entries (e.g. miniature horse)



Safeguarding Animal Health



Groups we work with outside APHIS

- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- State public health department
- University (vet school and diagnostic lab)
- Customs and Border Protection at Atlanta airport
- Producers
- Industry organizations (e.g. Georgia Poultry Federation, Georgia Cattlemen's Association)
- FSIS
- Slaughter plants
- Livestock markets

Safeguarding Animal Health



Training

- Veterinary Services Careers Program
 - Orientation to Veterinary Services
 - Emerging Issues in Agriculture
 - Basic Epidemiology
 - Other computer based courses

Safeguarding Animal Health



Training

- Brucellosis and TB Epidemiology
- FAD school
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Emergency Management Response System (EMRS)
- Microsoft Office courses
- GVMA convention
- Wildlife Seminar for Foreign Animal Diseases

Safeguarding Animal Health



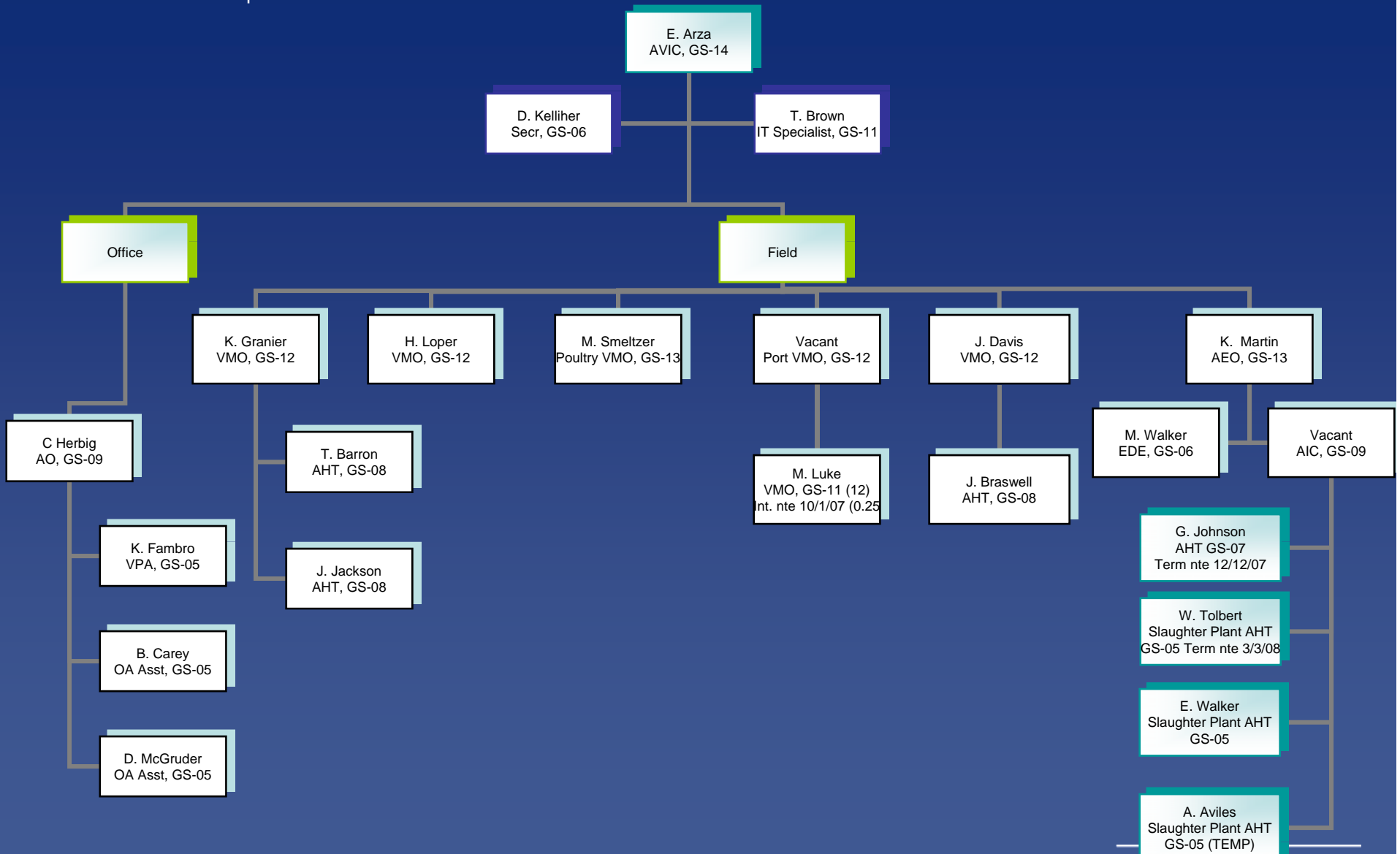
Supervisory Experience

- Export Document Examiner
- Animal Identification Coordinator
- AHTs in a cattle slaughter plant
- Acting AVIC

Safeguarding Animal Health



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



Safeguarding Animal Health

Veterinary Services



Pros and cons of working in Veterinary Services

- Pros
 - Typically 40 hours/week (limited on-call)
 - Usually daytime hours (except at ports)
 - Compensation for work over 40 hours (overtime or comp time)
 - Field VMOs work out of their home, have a GOV and make their own schedule
 - Health insurance, retirement plan
 - Ability to move up in the organization

Safeguarding Animal Health



Pros and cons of working in Veterinary Services

- Cons
 - Government bureaucracy
 - Need to be mobile to move up in the organization
 - May do private practice on the side, but limited to small animals

Safeguarding Animal Health



Prerequisites

- No experience is necessary for field VMO positions (may be hired right out of vet school)
- Area Epidemiology Officer (AEO) positions require MPH in addition to DVM (in some cases the MPH may be earned as part of the job)
- AVICs typically have experience working as VMOs or AEOs, or have other governmental experience
- Must be a U.S. citizen

Safeguarding Animal Health



Details

- END task force 2003
 - 3 week details to southern California
 - Real world outbreak experience
 - Met others in the agency from all parts of the country
 - Worked 7 days/week and 12 hours days, earned overtime and received per diem



Safeguarding Animal Health

Details

- FMD in the UK - 2001
- LPAI in Virginia - 2002
- BSE in the US – 2004
- TB in MN, CA, NM
- 1996 Olympics in Atlanta
- Vet students and private practitioners can participate through the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC)



Safeguarding Animal Health

Epidemiology in Veterinary Services

- Field epidemiology
 - Brucellosis infected swine herd
 - Probable source of infection was feral swine
 - Diagnosis, depopulation, tracing
 - Slaughter traces
- Analytical epidemiology
 - NAHMS studies (includes field component)
 - Trade risk analysis
 - NAHSS
 - Global animal disease surveillance
- Regional and headquarters epidemiologists provide guidance to field staff

Safeguarding Animal Health



Student Opportunities

- Short-term (1-2 weeks) experiences to learn a little bit about what we do
- Vet school externships can be arranged at the Area level or at sites such as CEAH
- Paid (and unpaid) summer positions at selected locations in Veterinary Services
- National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC)

Safeguarding Animal Health



Employment with Veterinary Services

- All jobs are posted on USAJobs website:
<http://usajobs.opm.gov>
- Currently a veterinary degree must be received before applying for veterinarian positions, but efforts are being made to allow vet students to apply before graduation

Safeguarding Animal Health



Questions

Safeguarding Animal Health

