

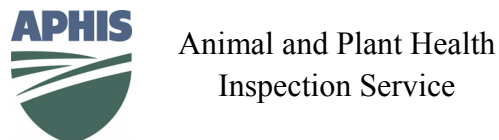
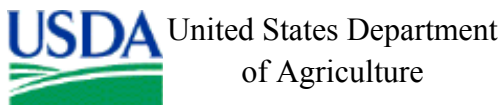
## How Much Will It Cost?

The cost of the program will be covered via a grant from USDA-APHIS-VS-NCRLC.

The VS NCRLC strives to integrate “true equality of opportunity” into its programs and services at all levels in carrying out the program mission of improving the health, quality, and marketability of our nation’s animals, animal products, and biologics through measures of commitment and accountability, program delivery, outreach, work force diversity, fair employment practices, human resource development, and procurement equities.



*Investing In The Future*



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## WHAT IS *Ag-DISCOVERY*?

The APHIS Veterinary Services Mississippi Area Office in conjunction with Alcorn State University will sponsor *Ag-DISCOVERY*, a pilot outreach program which allows students the opportunity to express individuality while promoting cultural diversity and increasing the awareness of careers in Animal Science and/or Veterinary Medicine.

*Ag-DISCOVERY* is a three-week summer boarding program at Alcorn State University targeting multi-cultural students (12–16 years of age) from across the country, who has expressed an interest in Animal Science and/or Veterinary Medicine. Hands-on experience will be provided through wet labs, workshops, and field trips. Students will also participate in character, diversity, and team building activities.

## ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

The nation's oldest 1890's land-grant institution, Alcorn State University is located in Alcorn State, Mississippi, eighty miles southwest of Jackson, the state capitol. The university provides students with education and training through bachelor and master degree programs in numerous fields of study including the agricultural sciences.

Alcorn currently offers a veterinary science option in the Animal Science discipline. The university has a variety of animal species available to implement this project.

## WHO IS APHIS?

"Protecting American agriculture" is the basic charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

APHIS provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. The agency improves agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributes to the national economy and the public health.

APHIS has five major program areas: Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), International Services (IS), Veterinary Services (VS), Animal Care (AC), and Wildlife Services (WS).

In carrying out the APHIS mission, employees in these program areas perform the following functional activities:

- Safeguarding Our Borders
- Combating Pests and Diseases
- Caring for Animals
- Protecting the Environment and Managing Wildlife Damage
- Leading Scientific Research and International Standards Setting

## HOW DO I APPLY?

A diverse population of multi-cultural students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Complete [application packets](#) must be postmarked before the May 15, 2004 deadline.
- Must be 12-16 years of age before June 30, 2004.
- Must submit three [character references](#) (one from a teacher) with the application packet.
- Must submit a two-page essay on "What I'd Like to Know About Animal Health, and Why?"



**For more information call  
(601) 877-6541**