

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Field Biology Fellowship
Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-PA-2026-0100

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-PA-2026-0100

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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Application Deadline 5/8/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description *Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Service (ARS), within the Foreign Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit (FABADRU). This opportunity will be located at the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) and Kansas State University campus in Manhattan, Kansas.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

Research Project: FABADRU uses multifaceted and interdisciplinary techniques to understand the interactions of insects (vector and pest), hosts, and the environment on the transmission of viruses or the impact of pest species affecting livestock. The specific mission is to protect U.S. livestock from insects of medical and veterinary importance. Under the guidance of the mentor(s), the fellow will contribute to the design,



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implementation, and data analysis of field-based research on new world screwworm and mosquito-borne diseases such as Japanese encephalitis, Rift Valley fever, and related diseases.

Learning Objectives: The fellow will have opportunities to learn field-based techniques related to survey and manage arthropod pests and vector species that impact the health of livestock and wildlife. Opportunities will be provided to develop skills in manuscript preparation, research presentation, and domestic and international collaboration with other USDA and non-USDA researchers. Additionally, opportunities to develop soft skills pertinent to future career success will be made available.

Mentor(s): The mentors for this opportunity are Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt (Lee.Cohnstaedt@usda.gov) and Dr. Dustin Swanson (Dustin.Swanson@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentors.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: August 2026. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend range is \$60,000 - \$100,000 annually.**

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.Plains@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a master's or doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields (e.g. biology, animal science, entomology, wildlife ecology, or closely related discipline). Degree must have been received within the past five years or anticipated to be received by start of appointment.

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Preferred skills:

- Knowledge of field-based experimental and observational study designs and analyses
- Familiarity with agricultural production systems, veterinary health, zoonoses, or wildlife ecology
- Clear written and verbal communication skills for both scientific and applied audiences
- Previous experience in team and collaborative scientific environments
- Project and team leadership experience
- Demonstrated attention to detail, accuracy, and reproducible documentation
- Experience in field-based vector biology and animal health
- Research skills, data analysis skills and scientific writing ability to effectively carry out research activities, interpret findings, and contribute to scholarly publications

Stipend \$60,000.00 – \$100,000.00 Yearly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#))
- **Communications and Graphics Design** ([2](#))
- **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([17](#))
- **Earth and Geosciences** ([21](#))
- **Engineering** ([29](#))
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#))
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([51](#))
- **Mathematics and Statistics** ([11](#))
- **Physics** ([16](#))
- **Science & Engineering-related** ([2](#))
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([29](#))

• **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).