Announcement Number: ARS-D5S-0284

Demographic

Position Title/Series/Grade:
Biologist (Bioinformatics)
GS-0401-7/9

Promotion Potential: GS-9

Employment Type: Full-time - Term - Not-to-Exceed 2 Years (This appointment may be extended up to a total of 4 years without further competition).

Grade and Salary Range:
- GS-7: $34,149.00 - $44,395.00 Per Year
- GS-9: $41,772.00 - $54,300.00 Per Year

Location of Position:
Knipling-Bushland US Livestock Insects Laboratory
Kerrville, Texas

Who Can Apply: All U.S. Citizens
(You must include a statement in your application that you are a U.S. citizen to be considered for this position)

Opening Date: September 19, 2005
Closing Date: October 17, 2005

For copies of vacancy announcements and/or application materials, please call (301) 504-1482. For additional information regarding employment opportunities, please visit [http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/jobs/apply.htm](http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/jobs/apply.htm).

Applications will also be accepted from USDA Surplus and Federal Displaced Employees in the commuting area.

Contact Information

Human Resources Specialist:
Nardia Bennett
(301) 504-1511

Location Contact Information:
Angie Heimann
(830) 792-0308

DC Relay Service: (202) 855-1234 (TDD)

Send Applications to:
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Human Resources Division
Attn: Nardia Bennett
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Stop 5105
Beltsville, MD 20705-5105
Fax: (301) 504-1535
E-mail: sci-recruit@ars.usda.gov

Applications must be postmarked, e-mailed or faxed by the closing date of the announcement. Applications received in Government envelopes will not be considered.

Please take advantage of the Application Package Checklist at the end of this announcement to ensure your application is complete.

For information about the organization and location, visit the location's website at [www.csrl.ars.usda.gov/kbuslirl](http://www.csrl.ars.usda.gov/kbuslirl).
Major Duties:
At the full performance level, the incumbent provides technical support for bioinformatics activities including research, data analysis and database curation at the Knipling-Bushland US Livestock Insects Laboratory. Performs a variety of complex data reformatting, annotation and transformation procedures and participates in the planning and execution of the curation process, including ideas for data delivery by adapting commercial or open source software. Uses bioinformatics approaches to identify gene sequences in the laboratory's B. microplus database, develops bioinformatic approaches and software programs to elucidate putative identification for gene sequences in the local B. microplus database. Collects, prepares and verifies the integrity of data, maintains written and electronic records and locates and compiles data and other information from various sources. Use personal computers, software packages and other electronic resources to meet objectives and identifies tools that are appropriate. Establishes and maintains orderly computational environment.

Qualifications Required: Your education and experience will be evaluated against all qualification requirements (basic and any additional requirements) listed below.

Basic Requirements
(A). Degree in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position OR
(B). Combination of education and experience. Courses equivalent to a major as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

GS-7: One full year of graduate-level education or superior academic achievement OR one year of specialized experience at the GS-5 level.
GS-9: Two full years of progressively higher level graduate education or master's or equivalent graduate degree OR one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-07 level.

This position has a positive education requirement. You must provide a copy of your academic transcripts OR a list of college courses with credit hours, dates completed, and grades received to verify education when applying for this position. If this information is not provided, your education may not be appropriately evaluated, and you may lose consideration for this position. If you are selected for this position, you will have to provide an official copy of your transcripts prior to entering on duty.

Specialized Experience - experience which has equipped you with the following Knowledge, Skills and Abilities - 'KSAs' required to perform the duties of this position:
1. Knowledge of the principles of biological sequence analysis, design and management of gene sequence database.
2. Knowledge of the principles of computer science, discrete mathematics and statistics.
3. Skill in writing customized programs to analyze DNA sequence information.
4. Ability to prepare technical reports and publications.
Other Important Information

**Benefits Package:**
A Benefits Package is authorized for this position. Additional information about Federal benefits can be obtained at www.usajobs.opm.gov/ei61.htm.

**Veteran’s Preference:**

**Relocation Expenses:**
Payment of relocation expenses will be determined in accordance with P&P 412.5, Recruitment and Retention Incentives and Other Special Pay, Sections 6 and 7, as amended by Bulletins 03-402 and 05-412.5, which may be found at http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/ppweb/412-05.htm#H10. See also http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/staffing_recruit/reloweb.htm.

**Financial Disclosure Requirement:**
Federal employees are subject to prohibitions against officially dealing with outside organizations in which they have a financial interest. You may be required to submit a financial disclosure report if hired for this position.

**False statements:**
If you make a false statement in any part of your application, you may not be hired; may be fired after beginning work; or may be fined or jailed.

**Optional Form 306, (Declaration for Federal Employment):**
If you are selected for this position, you will be required to complete this form before an offer may be made.

**USDA Surplus/Federal Displaced Employees:**
USDA Surplus/Federal displaced employees must submit documentary evidence of eligibility. Well qualified surplus and displaced employees within the local commuting area will receive selection priority as provided by OPM regulations. Well-qualified means the applicant meets the basic qualification and eligibility requirements and all selective placement factors; is rated above minimally qualified against the KSAs or quality criteria; and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry. Applicants must submit the following:

1) a copy of your RIF Separation Notice or Certification of Expected Separation or other documentation indicating that you are a surplus employee;
2) evidence of full performance level of current position;
3) a copy of your most recent performance appraisal; and
4) a copy of your most recent SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, to verify reassignment eligibility.

**Selective Service System:**
Males over age 18 who were born after December 31, 1959, must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for Federal employment.
**Reasonable Accommodation:**
Reasonable accommodation is provided to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, or have questions regarding reasonable accommodation and/or accessibility for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the Disability Program Manager on 202-720-6161 or through the DC Relay Service on 202-855-1234 (TDD). The decision to grant reasonable accommodation is made on a case-by-case basis.

**Civil Rights Policy Statement:**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Discrimination is prohibited in all USDA 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s Target Center on 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).
If application packages do not contain all of the requested information, you may lose consideration for the job. To help you ensure your application fully outlines your qualifications and eligibility for this position, please submit the following documentation.

□ Optional Form 612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment), SF-171 (Application for Federal Employment), Resume, Curriculum Vitae, or other document outlining your qualifications (Go to http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp and scroll down to obtain the OF-612).

The following information is required of all applicants:

□ Announcement number, title, and grade(s) of the position

□ Full name, mailing address (including zip code) and day and evening phone numbers (with area code)

□ Social security number

□ Statement that you are a U.S. citizen (if not using the OF-612 or SF-171)


□ SF-15 (Application for 10-point Veteran’s Preference) plus the support documentation required by this form (if claiming 10-point veterans preference) (Go to the web site at http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/sf.asp to obtain form.)

□ Paid and non-paid work experience related to the position. For each period of work experience include:
  ___Job title
  ___Series/grade (if Federal employment)
  ___Duties and accomplishments
  ___Employer’s name and address
  ___Supervisor’s name and contact information
  ___Starting and ending dates of employment (at least month & year)
  ___Number of hours worked per week
  ___Salary
  ___Indicate if we may contact current supervisor/employer

□ Other job related information, such as training courses (title & year); skills (e.g., other languages, computer software/hardware, tools, etc.)
  ___Certificates/licenses (current)
  ___Honors, awards, and special accomplishments
  ___Supplemental questionnaire if applicable (usually for Federal Wage System positions - WG, WL, WS)

□ Copy of college transcripts (if qualifying all or in part on the basis of education for this position) (If you have non-conventional education, e.g., foreign study, continuing education units, life experience, etc., go to the web site at http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-II/s2-e4.htm#e4a and look under the heading “Other Education” for information governing acceptability of this type of education.)
☐ Copy of SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) to verify possession of competitive civil service status (if you are a current or previous federal employee)

☐ Copy of most recent performance appraisal (if you are a current federal employee)

☐ Second copy of application package (if the position is open to candidates outside the federal government AND if you are a current federal employee or a candidate with reinstatement eligibility and wish to be considered under both merit promotion and competitive examining procedures).

☐ Support documentation for eligibility for special hiring authorities, such as disability, Peace Corps service, etc. (If you have questions about whether you are eligible for a particular hiring authority, please call the servicing HR specialist or visit the web site at http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/a2.htm and scroll down to the subject heading, “Category”.)

☐ Support documentation if you are a USDA surplus or federal displaced employee (See pertinent section under “Other Important Information” below.)

☐ Self-certification of typing speed (if required as a basic qualification for the position)

☐ While not required, a separate response to the required knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs listed under Specialized Experience) and Selective Placement Factor(s), if present, for this position may better highlight your specific qualifications for this position. (For an explanation of KSAs, go to the web site at http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/whatksa.html).

If this is your first time applying for a federal job, or if you wish to view more detailed information about various aspects of applying for federal jobs, go to http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp and scroll down to access the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Optional Form 510.