



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington,
DC
20250

Federally Employed Women
700 N Fairfax St.
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Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Sir or Madam,

Greetings once again from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Office of Catfish Inspection Programs (OCIP). You may remember that I sent you an initial letter on our new catfish inspection program back in April, 2009. We have since then published recruitment brochures, which I have enclosed so that you may distribute them.

As you may remember, we are building a new catfish inspection program, and we need your help to recruit new employees. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, FSIS received the authority to inspect catfish, and OCIP now must build a model, top-notch, diverse program and inspection force from the ground up. We have had some delays in setting up our program since our last letter, so we now predict that we will begin inspection activities in 2010 rather than July/August 2009 as I had previously mentioned. Our new, cutting-edge program will be the first mandatory continuous inspection program for any kind of fish, and offers new employees a chance to pioneer unexplored territory in marrying public health with aquaculture. We must begin hiring a staff of almost 90 people in the Fall/Winter of 2009 to stand up the program, and after that we will need to have continuous recruitment activities to ensure we can fulfill our mission.

FSIS is an award-winning public health regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that the commercial supply of meat (including catfish), poultry, and egg products moving in interstate commerce, or exported to and imported from other countries, is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. Our public health goal is to reduce food-borne illness from the products we regulate. FSIS is the largest food inspection workforce in the Federal government. Working in a large organization with locations geographically dispersed throughout the United States has the advantage of offering many opportunities for career advancement. In addition to a competitive salary, we offer potential recruitment bonuses and student loan repayments, as well as an excellent benefits package, which includes: paid vacation, sick leave, an array of health insurance options, life insurance, pay-for-performance, and a matching retirement fund. We also have classroom, on-the-job, and internet training for employees.

I appreciate you sharing the enclosed information with your staff, students, and/or members. If you have any questions, or would like additional information or more brochures, feel free to contact Peter Theis, OCIP Program Analyst at 202-720-2384, or at peter.theis@fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

William P. Milton, Jr.
Assistant Administrator
Office of Catfish Inspection Programs

Enclosures

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