**Job Title:** Agriculture Science Research Technician (Animal)
**Department:** Department Of Agriculture
**Agency:** Agricultural Research Service
**Job Announcement Number:** ARS-S16W-0019

**JOB SUMMARY:**
This position is located in the Agricultural Research Service in the Range Sheep Production Efficiency Research Unit, Dubois, ID.

This position provides technical support to scientists who are researching ways to optimize sheep genetics, reproductive efficiency, and rangeland utilization to increase the efficiency of sheep production and who are researching rangeland ecosystems and developing sustainable rangelands management systems.

Applicants must be able to lift a minimum on 60 lbs. The position will require to restrain and handle livestock and to work in remote terrain and in extreme weather conditions.

This is a term, time-limited appointment with an initial duration no less than 13 months and can be extended up to a total of 4 years.

**TRAVEL REQUIRED**
- Not Required

**RELOCATION AUTHORIZED**
KEY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a US Citizen or US National.
- Must be able to obtain a CDL with tanker and air brakes endorsements.

DUTIES:
Major Duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Assists in one or more phases of the research process by performing a variety of technical duties, in a laboratory, or field, common to the assigned area of work.
- Maintains records and locates and compiles data and other information from various sources.
- Performs routine and recurring techniques and studies using a variety of specialized equipment.
- Collects field data and samples including plant population and animal behavior data, soil samples, plants and plant material, blood and animal tissue samples.
- Maintains and repairs instruments and equipment and cares for animals used to accomplish research objectives.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the closing date of the announcement including the following specialized experience and/or education, as identified by grade level.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:

At the GS-04:

Qualifying experience for GS-04 includes six months of general experience and six months of specialized experience. For this position general experience is defined as any type of work that demonstrates the applicants ability to perform the work of the position, or (2) experience that provided a familiarity with the subject matter or processes of the broad subject area of the occupation. General experience can be obtained in a laboratory, field, or farm environment. Specialized experience is experience assisting in the collection and measurement of samples; recording research data; operating common farm equipment; and transporting farm equipment or livestock.

OR

Education: Successful completion of 2 years of study above the high school level that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must be directly related to the position. Related courses may include animal/livestock management, animal
science, animal production and animal husbandry.

OR

A combination of education and experience as described above.

**At the GS-05:**

Qualifying experience for GS-05 includes one year of specialized experience comparable to GS-04 which is directly related to the work of this position and which has equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position. For this position, specialized experience is experience assisting in the collection and preparation of agricultural/livestock samples; recording research data; operating farm equipment; transporting farm equipment or livestock; and maintaining and calibrating equipment and automated systems.

OR

**Education:** Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study above the high school level leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position to be filled. Related courses may include animal/livestock management, animal science, animal production and animal husbandry.

OR

A combination of education and experience as described above.

**Other job requirements:** Must possess or be able to obtain a Commercial Driver’s License with tanker and air brakes endorsements within 6 months of onboarding.

May be subject to satisfactory completion of one year trial period.

**HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:**

- Applications will be evaluated in accordance with Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) Delegated Examining Procedures using category rating. The category rating procedure is used to rank and select eligible candidates. Under category rating, applicants who meet basic minimum qualification requirements established for the position and whose job related competencies have been assessed are ranked by being placed in one of the following categories: Best Qualified, Well Qualified, and Qualified. Preference eligibles are listed ahead of non-preference eligibles within each category.
- You will be evaluated based on your qualifications for this position as evidenced by the education, experience, and training you described in your application package, as well as the responses to the Occupational Questionnaire to determine the degree to
which you possess the knowledge, skills, abilities and competencies listed below:

- **Biology**
- **Research**
- **Applies technology to tasks**

- We will review your application, including the online Occupational Questionnaire, to ensure you meet the job requirements and assess your ability to perform this job. Before any certificate can be issued to the selecting official, the resume and supporting documents are reviewed by an HR Specialist to ensure that (a) minimum qualification requirements are met and (b) the resume supports the answers provided to the job-specific questions. Your answers will be verified against information provided in your online resume and application. Be sure that your resume clearly supports your responses to all the questions addressing experience and education relevant to this position.

**Note**: If, after reviewing your resume and / or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your score can / will be lowered to more accurately reflect the submitted documentation. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Deliberate attempts to falsify information may be grounds for not selecting you.

To view the application form, visit: https://ars.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=87CE4AFA-2B9E-4A1B-A22E-A55300E52D52

**BENEFITS:**

**OTHER INFORMATION:**
Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP): If you are claiming CTAP/ICTAP eligibility, provide proof of eligibility to include your most recent performance appraisal, SF-50, and proof of eligibility such as a RIF separation notice or letter from OPM/your agency. CTAP/ICTAP eligibles will be considered well-qualified if achieving a rating of 85 or above. Information about CTAP/ICTAP eligibility is on OPMs Career Transition Resources website at [http://www.opm.gov/ctap/index.asp.](http://www.opm.gov/ctap/index.asp.)

More than one selection may be made if another vacancy occurs within 90 days of the issuance of the certification of eligibles.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc) should contact: USDAs TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).
Direct Deposit – Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to a financial institution of your choosing.

E-Verify: Federal law requires agencies to use the E-Verify system to confirm the employment eligibility of all new hires. If you are selected as a newly hired employee, the documentation you present for purposes of completing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form 1-9 on your entry-on-duty date will be verified through the DHS E-VERIFY system. Under the system, the new hire is required to resolve any identified discrepancies as a condition of continued employment.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION AND FINGERPRINT CHECK: Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check) and a background investigation.

It is the policy of the Government not to deny employment simply because an individual has been unemployed or has had financial difficulties that have arisen through no fault of the individual. See more information at: http://www.chcoc.gov/transmittals/TransmittalDetails.aspx?TransmittalID=6465

If you are a male applicant born after December 31, 1959, certify that you have registered with the Selective Service System or are exempt from having to do so.

If you are selected for a position with further promotion potential, you will be placed under a career development plan, and may be non-competitively promoted if you successfully complete the requirements and if recommended by management. However, promotion is neither implied nor guaranteed.

HOW TO APPLY:
Please read the entire announcement and all the instructions before you begin. The following instructions outline our application process.

- You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.
- We are available to assist you during business hours (normally 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday). Applying online is highly encouraged. If applying online poses a hardship, please contact our office during business hours well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages with supporting documents must be submitted no later than noon on the closing date of the announcement in order to be entered into the system prior to its closing.
- This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us if you require this for any part of the application and hiring process.

Step 1: Create a USAJOBS account (if you do not already have one) at www.usajobs.gov. It is recommended that as part of your profile you set up automatic email notification to be informed when the status of your application changes. If you choose not to set up this automatic notification, then you will have to log into your USAJOBS account to check on the status of your application.
**Step 2:** Create a Resume with USAJOBS or upload a Resume into your USAJOBS account. You may want to customize your resume to ensure it documents duties and accomplishments you have gained that are directly related to this position in order to verify that qualifications are met. In addition, your resume must support your responses to the online questionnaire (you may preview the online questionnaire by clicking on the link at the end of the How You Will Be Evaluated section of the job announcement).

**Step 3:** Click "Apply Online" and follow the prompts to complete the Occupational Questionnaire and attach any additional documents that may be required. You can update your application or documents anytime while the announcement is open. Simply log into your USAJOBS account and click on "Application Status." Click on the position title, and then select "Update Application” to continue. **NOTE:** Verify that uploaded documents from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system. Once in the Agency's staffing system you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Uploaded documents must be less than 3MB and in one of the following document formats: GIF, JPG, JPEG, PNG, RTF, PDF, or Word (DOC or DOCX).

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

You must submit a complete Application Package, prior to 11:59, ET, on the closing date of this announcement. The following documents must be submitted for your application package to be considered complete. It is your responsibility to ensure all required documents are received within the required timeframes. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in the mail service, system failure or downtime, etc. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- **Resume** that includes the following information: 1) job information for which you are applying; 2) personal information; 3) education; 4) work experience including the work schedule and hours worked per week as well as dates of employment; and title, series and grade if applicable; 5) supervisors’ phone number and e-mail address for each work period listed and whether or not we may contact them for reference checks; and, 6) other qualifications.

- **College Transcripts** if education is required for meeting basic qualifications and/or used as a substitute for specialized experience. An unofficial copy is sufficient however, if selected; an official college transcript will be required prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully completed and obtained from an accredited school, college, or university. Foreign education must be evaluated by an approved organization. For additional information, refer to the U.S. Department of Education web site at [http://www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov). All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.

- **DD-214 (Member 4 Copy)** if claiming Veterans’ Preference. Veterans claiming 10 point preference must also submit a VA Letter and an SF-15 Application for 10-point Veteran Preference. Current Active Duty members must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty under honorable conditions dated within the last 120 days.

- **Other required documents may include:**
  - CTAP/ICTAP Required Documentation Reduction-In-Force: Certification of
Expected Separation, Reduction-In-Force Separation Notice, or Notice of Proposed Removal; AND most recent performance evaluation; AND SF-50 demonstrating your separation or the position you will be separated from.

- Worker's Compensation Separation: Agency certification of inability to place employee AND Notification of Separation OR Separation SF-50.
- Disability Annuity Termination: Notification from OPM of disability annuity termination AND Separation SF-50 of the last position held.
- Military Reserve or National Guard Technician Special Disability Retirement Annuity under 5 U.S.C. 8337(h) or 8456: Certification of special disability retirement annuity from a military department or National Guard Bureau AND Separation SF-50 of the last position held.

**NOTE:** If a document is resubmitted, it replaces the previous submission, which means the previous document is no longer available to the Human Resources Office. If you are adding to, rather than replacing a previous submission, you must upload both the old document and the new document. Please verify that documents you are uploading from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency’s staffing system as there is a limitation to the number of documents that can be transferred. However, once in the Agency’s staffing system, you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Uploaded resumes must be less than 3MB and in one of the following document formats: GIF, JPG, JPEG, PNG, RTF, PDF, or Word (DOC or DOCX).

**AGENCY CONTACT INFO:**

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**WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:**

If you set up your USAJOBS account to send automatic email notifications, you will receive an email acknowledging: 1) the submission of your online Occupational Questionnaire and resume was successful, 2) if you were referred to the selecting official for consideration, and 3) if you were selected or not selected. If you choose not to set up automatic email notifications, you must check your USAJOBS account for the latest status of your application. Your application may be reviewed to verify that you meet the qualifications and eligibility requirements for the position prior to issuing lists to a selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Normally, a final job offer to the selected candidate is made within 30-60 days after the issuance of the certificate.