

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Veterinary Diagnostics Internship

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is seeking an intern for the spring of 2027 (January 18, 2027 – April 14, 2027). This internship opportunity will offer the selected candidate hands-on experience in necropsy and ancillary diagnostics as they relate to the department's mission of protecting livestock health and consumer safety across the state of Tennessee.

Location:

Ellington Agricultural Center
Porter Building
436 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220

Major Duties:

Necropsy:

- Learn and assist with the performance of livestock and companion animal necropsies.
- Learn and assist with specimen labeling, electronic sample management, and intra-laboratory sample movement for ancillary diagnostics.

Ancillary Diagnostics:

- Evaluate incoming specimens and associated documentation for completeness and accuracy.
- Subsample and prepare specimens for serology, immunology, molecular, and microbiological assays.
- Assist with performance of routine diagnostic testing.

Other duties and special projects may be assigned as needed.

Education Requirements:

- Applicants must possess a high school diploma and be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or advanced degree program in Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Biology, or a closely related field.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Essential Knowledge and Required Skills:

- Ideal candidates should be highly organized.
- Familiar with principles of biosafety, biosecurity, and chemical hygiene.
- Familiar with Microsoft Office.
- Comfortable making and accepting phone calls.

Comments:

- This is a paid internship.
- Some travel may be required.
- This internship is part of the TDA's central internship program. In addition to regular project work, interns may be expected to participate in internship-specific events and activities that support learning, professional development, department outreach, and program engagement.
- All participants in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Internship Program are required to complete an improvement project within their assigned division. Interns will identify an opportunity for growth, develop a project outline, and explain the project's intended outcomes and contributions to the Department. At the conclusion of the internship term, participants will present their projects to Executive Leadership during a luncheon.
- For more information on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's veterinary diagnostic laboratory, please visit: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/animals/-c--e--kord-animal-health-diagnostic-lab.html>

Working Conditions:

- This internship is primarily laboratory-based with the possibility of some work in an office setting.
- There may be optional travel opportunities to shadow Division of Animal Health field staff.

How to Apply:

To apply for this internship opportunity, please send the following documents to Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov :

- Resume
- Letter of intent
- Most recent transcript
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- DD214 (**veteran candidates only**)

PLEASE NOTE: Once your application has been received, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please reach out to Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026.

Other Information:

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.