

Poultry and Pathogens in Agritourism Postdoctoral Fellow Position

[Dr. Andrea Etter](#) in the [Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences](#) at the University of Vermont is soliciting applications for a **two year** postdoctoral research position with the opportunity for renewal to work on a USDA-funded study investigating the role of poultry in zoonotic pathogen prevalence and spread on animal agritourism operations.

The candidate will be responsible for coordinating and conducting on-farm sampling for pathogens on animal agritourism operations, with the support of Dr. Andrea Etter and Dr. Lisa Chase. Additionally, the postdoctoral researcher will coordinate with NC State researchers to receive and process NC samples alongside samples from Vermont. The postdoctoral fellow will be required to maintain rigorous records and metadata on all samples processed, and to freeze down pathogens isolated from agritourism operations for subsequent regrowth and sequencing. Finally, the candidate will be responsible for preparing and submitting isolates for sequencing and assisting in genomic analysis. The candidate will have the option of mentoring undergraduate researchers (including honors thesis students and summer undergraduate researchers) to work with them, and may receive additional support from graduate students in the lab.

This position will provide an excellent opportunity for the postdoctoral researcher to work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers across multiple land-grant institutions, and develop both lab and on-farm microbiology research experience. The diverse team of researchers seeks to minimize disease spread on farms that interface with people through agritourism activities, while also understanding the ways in which these operations contribute to people's understanding of agriculture and rural landscapes, as well as provide viable additional income opportunities. This truly unique postdoctoral position will develop professional skills across a wide range of lab and applied components while broadening research and mentorship skills.

Required skills

- A PhD in life sciences or agricultural sciences (microbiology, animal sciences, food science, or related fields)
- Substantial **microbiology lab experience**, including the ability to enrich diverse samples for *Salmonella* and to conduct PCR to confirm pathogen identification
- Excellent organizational and record-keeping skills
- A publication record in peer-reviewed journals
- Independent work ethic
- Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team and communicate well with collaborators, farms, and students
- Valid US Driver's License or ability to obtain one prior to start.

Desired skills:

- Experience supervising and training undergraduate researchers/junior graduate students
- Strong writing skills
- Experience culturing *Campylobacter* species
- Experience with genomic sample preparation
- Bioinformatics experience

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any category legally protected by federal or state law. Applicants are welcome from any region, and there are no associated citizenship requirements.

Salary:

Salary will be \$56,484-59,592 annually. There are also a number of generous benefits associated with the position, which can be found at: <https://www.uvm.edu/hrs/postdoctoral-associates-benefits-overview>. The post-doctorate will also have opportunities for professional development and conference attendance associated with the projects

Application Process

To apply for this position please submit to andrea.etter@uvm.edu by July 30th:

- A cover letter that details interest in the position and experience relevant to it, including microbiology lab experience, data management, and work on a team.
- A full CV
- Contact information for three references

Top candidates will be invited to interview through videoconference, with the possibility of a campus visit.