**Biological Scientist**

**GS-0401-12**

The Forest Pest Methods Laboratory, USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is seeking to fill a Biological Scientist (GS-0401-12) position focused on phytosanitary measures for exotic plant pests. The duty station location is Buzzards Bay, MA.

**Interested candidates should send a letter of interest to Scott Myers (scott.w.myers@usda.gov)**

**Requirements:** Applicants must be a US citizen to qualify. A PhD in entomology or a related field is desired.

**Position:** The [Forest Pest Methods Laboratory](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/ppq-program-overview/science-technology/forest-pest-methods-laboratory) located on Joint Base Cape Cod in Buzzards Bay, MA provides scientific and technical support to PPQ programs through the development and transfer of technology and information. The incumbent will be responsible for leading efforts to develop and implement phytosanitary measures for national priority pest species to support the PPQ mission of safeguarding U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests.

**Roles/Responsibilities:**

* Provides leadership, guidance, active assistance, and participation in planning, coordinating, and implementing phytosanitary efforts for PPQ program pests.
* Contributes to formulating PPQ strategies on development and use of phytosanitary treatments, systems approaches and supporting strategies to prevent the introduction of exotic plant pests.
* Contributes to formulating PPQ strategies for reducing methyl bromide use in phytosanitary applications.
* Establishes and fosters collaborative working relationships and information networks with University cooperators, State and Federal Agencies, and foreign research organizations.
* Develops strategies, plans, program guidance, and dissemination of research results for agency-wide application and incorporation into control of PPQ program pests.
* Analyzes, formulates, and develops ideas, concepts, and methodology for new or revised phytosanitary strategies for exotic plant pests.
* Provides expert technical advice, guidance, and support to PPQ units on phytosanitary treatments and related measures.
* Reports research results in peer-reviewed journals, agency meetings and scientific conferences.
* Provides leadership in the development and management of partnerships with a diverse group of internal and external stakeholders.
* Builds and maintains effective working relationships with professional colleagues and stakeholders.
* Provides program direction, vision, strategic planning, internal and external networking, and participation in key national meetings.

**Skills Needed:**

* Expertise in one or more of the following areas: Postharvest Treatments, Pest Management, Entomology, Chemistry, Plant Pathology, Ecology, and an understanding of concepts, principles, and implementation approaches for phytosanitary systems.
* Ability to conduct program management functions such as project planning, establishing and managing cooperative agreements with research partners, developing options and solutions to address program needs.
* Ability to develop relationships and build productive research collaborations with external partners.
* Ability to lead a diverse team including USDA employees, cooperators and collaborators supporting field and laboratory-based research projects.