



August 5, 2024

Dear Prospective Student,

In a world where there are so many career possibilities, I invite you to explore one that is guaranteed to provide you a sense of meaning and fulfillment. It is a career in public health, specifically as a Public Health Food Investigator. This position is truly the front lines of food safety, working domestically and internationally to ensure that the products your friends, family and community consumes are safe.

To introduce you to the possibilities of this career, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) has partnered with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the North Carolina State University (NC State) to create a new course: *Introduction to Public Health Food Inspections*. This course is the first of its kind anywhere in the country and offers students a comprehensive understanding of the federal regulatory food inspections and enforcement system.

I want to share with you a conversation I had recently with FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. about this course. He said, "This partnership is an opportunity for the FDA to work with a first-rate university to offer an educational perspective for the next generation of food safety inspectors. The combination of FDA's practical knowledge and NC State's quantitative, agricultural and scientific expertise is a great mix for a future in which regulation that stimulates safe, nutritious and resilient food will be critical to the U.S. and the world."

If you are interested in learning more about this course or enrolling, please visit www.nasda.org/inspectioncourse. Completion of the course offers students college credit to build their resumes as well as a potential pathway for equivalency testing for specific topics. Students with these credentials and training will be sought after by the Agency and should strongly consider applying for vacant positions advertised on [USA Jobs](http://USAJobs), and for positions with our state and local public health partners. In the future, the FDA and NASDA hopes this course can be replicated at other higher education institutions across the country.

As a former FDA investigator, I can tell you that I have traveled the world protecting public health. I can also tell you that there is no greater professional reward than knowing that you make a difference, and that the work you do impacts people's lives on a daily basis.

A career in public health positions you to impact the lives of individuals and communities – locally, nationally, and globally. Upon completion of this course and a degree in science I look forward to discussing available career opportunities with you. We need your energy, passion, and commitment to ensure that our food supply remains the safest in the world.

I want to thank you for your interest in this course and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rogers".

Michael C. Rogers, MS
Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs