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*The*  
**PPQ**  
**William F. Helms**  
*Student  
Scholarship  
Program*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Miscellaneous  
Publication No. 1531

## *William F. Helms in Brief*

After graduating from Auburn University, Bill Helms joined APHIS in 1958 and worked for PPQ in field offices in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. He was assigned to headquarters in 1980 as the associate deputy administrator for PPQ and was subsequently promoted in 1986 to be deputy administrator, the highest ranking position in his division and the position he retained until his untimely death in 1990.

Bill was an active proponent for change and management improvement. He also looked for better ways of doing business. Through many organizational changes, he never lost sight of the people element and the worth of the organization's most valuable asset, its people. An example of his feelings is reflected in a comment made after a major reorganization in the late 1980's: "There's been some skepticism about the reorganization—many people are resistant to change no matter what. But I believe that it doesn't make any difference how many boxes you have on the chart, how many people you have, how many interrelationships—if you have good, dedicated people, you're going to get results. I think that's why APHIS has succeeded over the years."

The William F. Helms Student Scholarship Program continues the legacy Bill worked hard to establish and is further evidence of the agency's continuing commitment to support and hire the best and brightest young people with an interest in the mission of PPQ.

## *What Is PPQ ...*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the agency responsible for protecting America's agriculture base—in essence, its food and fiber—from exotic plant pests and animal diseases. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is the program within APHIS that deals with plant health issues.

PPQ employees not only keep destructive exotic plant pests out of the United States but also work to control the infestations of such common pests as grasshoppers, boll weevils, and gypsy moths. PPQ employees monitor the distribution of pests in the United States through an extensive surveillance network and conduct integrated pest management programs on designated pests in cooperation with State and other Federal agencies and private farmers and ranchers.



PPQ monitors passengers arriving from outside the United States at airports, seaports, and border crossings to assure that no prohibited agricultural items are brought into the country. Air, truck, and maritime cargoes are inspected for potential pests and diseases in imported fruits and vegetables, and PPQ certifies that U.S. agricultural exports are free of pests and diseases. This certification facilitates trade with foreign countries.

PPQ is offering scholarships and career exploration opportunities to academically qualified students who are enrolled in college-level programs related to agriculture or the biological sciences. Sophomores and juniors attending an accredited college or university are eligible to apply. These students can receive up to \$5,000 in financial assistance each year they are enrolled in a degree program. Students must maintain at least a 2.5 grade-point average. Here are the details.



## *What Does the William F. Helms Scholarship Program Offer You?*

- /// Financial aid while pursuing a degree,
- /// Tutoring assistance,
- /// Mentoring,
- /// Paid work experience during vacation periods,
- /// Career exploration, and
- /// Possible employment upon graduation.



## What Kind of Career Opportunities Does PPQ Offer?

**William F. Helms Scholarship recipients can look forward to work experiences in career areas such as**

- /// Biology
- /// Plant Pathology
- /// Entomology
- /// Virology
- /// Bacteriology
- /// Mycology
- /// Ecology

PPQ will offer scholarship recipients employment during school vacations. PPQ anticipates offering full-time professional employment to Helms scholars who successfully complete the necessary education, training, and work requirements.



## How To Apply

### Qualifications

Students interested in the William F. Helms Scholarship should apply directly to USDA/APHIS (check the back of this leaflet for our address). You must be a U.S. citizen to apply.

*Your application must contain the following items:*

- /// A personal letter that
  - Describes your interests, goals, and chosen career plans.
  - Explains how you envision your ability will contribute to the PPQ mission.
  - Outlines why you should be selected for this program over other candidates.
  - Lists a permanent address where you can be contacted all year.
- /// Transcripts of your college work to date.
- /// Three letters of recommendation (from people not related to you).





## **Deadline for Nominations Is March 1**

PPQ will accept nominations for consideration through March 1 of each year. Students selected will begin receiving scholarship benefits at the start of the fall semester.

## **Nominations Should Be Addressed to:**

William F. Helms Scholarship  
USDA, APHIS, Management and Budget,  
Human Resources  
Ag Box 3443, Room 1724-S  
Washington, DC 20250

You may obtain further information about the William F. Helms Scholarship by calling toll free: 1-800-762-2738.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call (800) 245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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