Per ARS Homeland Security Staff on 02/01/2008, in accordance with Federal immigration regulations the following visa types are NOT acceptable under the following circumstances:

Persons with B-2 (not B-1/B-2), F-2, H-4, and J-2 may not conduct any type of work in a USDA facility, or receive any type of compensation which would include stipends. At the Department's discretion F-2, H-4, and J-2 holders may donate their time in a facility but the ARS-230 must specifically contain the word "volunteer" in the description of what they're doing.

A B-2 Visa (again different from a B-1/B-2) is a "tourist" visa. Consequently, a foreign national holding a B-2 Visa may not access a facility for more than 2 days, and only for the purposes of touring a facility or a brief visit with a USDA employee or contractor.

These policy clarifications are based on interpretations of U.S. immigration laws. Failure to adhere to them could potentially result in a foreign national being detained, deported, and/or permanently banned from entering the U.S. in the future. Violations could also result in the Department being prohibited from hosting foreign nationals in the future.