VMLRP Shortage ID Code LA143

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Plaquemines Parishes / Louisiana
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Louisiana Hwy 1 and Louisiana Hwy 20
Lafourche Parish
Thibodaux, LA 70301
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ❑ Moderate Priority ❑ High Priority X Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)	**May cover**
❑ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)	**May cover**
x Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	x Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	x Swine
❑ Poultry	X Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	X Small Ruminant
❑ Other: Alternative livestock	X Other: Alternative livestock

❑ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:
❑ Food Safety
❑ Public Health
❑ Epidemiology
❑ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Supplying a food animal veterinarian, at the 30% level (Type II shortage) would answer five objectives: care for food animals, support for the community, administer emergency care, provide surveillance for disease outbreaks and stabilize the economic welfare of the community.

Food animal veterinary support has dwindled as the cattle numbers dramatically decreased post-hurricanes Katrina and Gustav Five years later, these coastal parishes are restocking and producing large numbers of beef cattle. Unfortunately, post-Katrina times have created difficult economic times and most veterinarians in these parishes see little to no food animals. Farmers are forced to make animal husbandry and welfare decisions without the consultation of a food animal veterinarian.

Food animal veterinarians are characterized as being "strongly family oriented," helping with in the communities by coaching athletic teams, 4-H, FFA and community involvement in the Lion's Club and Kiwanis Clubs.

Emergencies are difficult to quickly attend to due to travel distances. Veterinarians are our eyes and ears for front line surveillance with incursions of any disease effecting the food chain and economics in America. Surveillance is the key to any biosecurity program.

This dedication touches the lives of many within the community and helps economic growth.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian assigned to these three parishes can help to establish and implement sufficient reproduction programs including yearly pregnancy checks diagnosing and treating causes of anestrus, treating metritis, vaginal and uterine prolapses, calf deliveries and pre-breeding tests for Trichomoniasis. Parasite control continues to be an issue for all species.

The herd size varies, small 50 head beef farms to fairly large coastal ranches, so the establishment and implementation of well designed vaccine protocols, herd health management that caters to the needs and problems for each individual farm, presents more opportunity for a veterinarian to become integrated within the community.

Unique to this area is the food animal veterinarian's role in emergency preparedness. Louisiana is blessed with well organized large animal plans, but implementation of the plans, response and recovery for this region are very dependent on a person with veterinary knowledge and animal husbandry.

The 4-H and FFA are a big part of this community—sheep, pigs and poultry travel to regional and state shows. The veterinarian's involvement in these programs with the children will help insure the future of the food animal industry.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association conducts a job fair at its annual winter meeting. Veterinarians have reported that the stress with distance, time and gas has made this region non-profitable. Changes to 100% small animal practices have occurred. The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine provided answers to House Concurrent Resolution No. 183 detailing how it would find ways to increase the number of large animal veterinarians practicing in Louisiana.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Hurricanes and economic hardship on the cattle industry caused many smaller farmers sold out. With that economic wedge removed, food animal veterinarians successfully turned to small animal practice. Subsequently, there has been one food animal veterinarian for this entire region. Plaquemines Parish stretches over 100 miles bisected by the Mississippi River, while the coastal parishes of Terrebonne and Lafourche have large acreages of ground that can be mostly swamp during portions of the year. Relief of job stress is a primary reason to place a food animal veterinarian there.

According to the 2012 LSU Ag Summary, there were a total of 25,200 cattle on 397 operations with herds being raised on pasture grass throughout these parishes. Of these397, almost 70 percent of these cattle operations had less than 50 head per farm. Many of these operations in this area would probably qualify as limited resource operations. Also most of these producers would tend to have outside employment or absent operators for most of the work week due to employment off the farm.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type
Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week
Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week
Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

x By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

x By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Brent Robbins

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Louisiana Dept. Agriculture and Forestry

Email: brobbins@ldaf.la.gov

Telephone Number: 225-922-1238
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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