

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 (SAHO) 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: Nomination #3 –Franklin, Adams, and Lincoln counties, Mississippi
(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): State route 98 Meadville, Mississippi (Franklin Co.)
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority High Priority 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)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- 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)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

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).

The primary objective of a veterinarian serving this area is to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services, **dedicating at least 50% of their time in food animal practice.** The southwest region has the highest dairy cattle population in the state, as well as a large number of beef cattle and small ruminants. According to the 2010 NASS county estimates, almost 28,000 cattle and calves are located in this region, with only one large animal veterinary practice servicing the eastern edge (AVMA Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates). The veterinarian will likely need to also provide some equine and companion animal services to ensure business viability.

Another objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contribute to the local economy. While this is a primarily rural area, accessibility to larger communities such as Baton Rouge is available. Between 5.7-9.4% of the workforce is primarily agriculture in nature (U.S. Census Bureau). Per capita income has increased 4.7% over 2011 (U.S. Dept. of Commerce), and the area has seen slight population growth. The veterinarian is expected to be based near Meadville, a central location with good highway access to the region.

(199 words)

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).

Routine veterinary care would include herd health consultations (including vaccination and parasite control planning, pregnancy examinations and breeding soundness exams), regulatory services in accordance with state and federal health programs, issuance of interstate health papers and animal identification, and emergency veterinary services. He or she should also be prepared to work with the local auction barn and livestock exhibitions held in the region. This veterinarian would be expected to collaborate with Extension and 4-H livestock personnel and provide guidance and education in the areas of animal health and public health, and serve as a model for future food animal veterinarians. The veterinarian will also be expected to demonstrate and educate others on proper animal handling and promote animal welfare according to scientifically-based industry standards.

This veterinarian will not only serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, but will also serve as a front line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging and exotic animal diseases. Furthermore, since this area of the state is prone to tropical storms and flooding, a veterinarian in this area would be able to provide guidance in areas of disaster preparedness and agrosecurity for both large and small animal veterinary clients.

(199 words)

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).

Veterinarians historically have had a difficult time in hiring and retaining associates due to the rural locale and economic realities of the region. One veterinarian was hired into an adjacent county within the past three years, and this veterinarian continues to service a 5-county area that overlaps the southern edge of this shortage nomination. Livestock producers continue to express a need for continued and expanded veterinary services. CVM externship records show that the local practice has hosted students on externships to help them gain experience. However, there are few incentives for graduates to join or establish practices in this area.

(100 words)

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).

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, with agricultural receipts close to \$4.9 bil. Poultry and eggs lead in total agricultural sales, with cattle and calves being the 4th leading commodity. There are approximately 1.2 mil food animals in the state, with only 100 large animal veterinarians to service them (NASS, AVMA estimates). This area of the state has large dairy and stocker cattle populations, and veterinary services are critical for the economic stability of the area. Veterinary services available from adjacent counties are limited. It is not practically or economically feasible for veterinarians to expand their coverage area while continuing to provide quality service to their clients.

The risks of a veterinarian not being secured or retained in this area are many, including: increased livestock morbidity and mortality due to lack of veterinary care, improper animal treatments, improper animal handling and increased threats to animal

welfare, and the failure to recognize emerging and foreign animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or other chemicals are used improperly or when improper drug withdraws are followed. The proper care and management of food animals will help ensure a safe and wholesome food supply. Environmental health can also be threatened with the lack of guidance for certain product and waste disposal. Therefore the lack of a food animal veterinary professional in this region may threaten the entire US and international communities by failure to detect and respond to potential animal and public health concerns.

(250 words)

(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.

50%

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

- By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- 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: James A. Watson

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Mississippi Board of Animal Health

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Telephone Number: 601-359-1170
(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, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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