

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: Pulaski County, Arkansas
(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): # 1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Must cover (check at least one) | May cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swine | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: AR Livestock and Poultry Commission Position Title: Veterinary Pathologist

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Pathology

(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 above, 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.

%

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 1500 characters).

The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ALPC VDL) received 666 necropsy submissions in 2015, 346 of which were food animal species. In addition, the ALPC VDL received 3853 Histopathology submissions in 2015. The long term retention of an experienced Veterinary Pathologist is essential for the ALPC VDL to continue to provide exceptional and reliable Veterinary Diagnostics for Arkansas.

The objectives of a Veterinarian meeting this shortage situation include, providing and retaining a full time, experienced Veterinary Pathologist at the ALPC VDL to facilitate the performance of necropsy and histopathology procedures on samples from all animal species. The Veterinarian will serve as a key component in Arkansas' surveillance for foreign animal diseases and zoonotic diseases of human health significance. The Veterinarian will also provide consultation for Large Animal Veterinarians and producers in regards the evaluation of clinical signs, history, and differential diagnosis. The veterinarian will provide recommendations in regards to sample collection, testing methodologies, and the development of additional diagnostics within the laboratory to improve the available diagnostic capabilities. Implementation of the VMLRP for this need area will ensure that ALPC VDL will be able to meet the demand for quality Veterinary Diagnostics in Arkansas.

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 1500 characters or less).

The Veterinarian in this shortage position will serve as a full time Veterinary Pathologist at the ALPC VDL. The primary duties of a Veterinarian in this position will be to perform necropsy services on a wide variety of animal species, direct sampling and testing regimens for those animals submitted for necropsy, and perform histopathological examination on tissues collected at necropsy and on laboratory submissions from private Veterinarians. The ALPC VDL routinely receives necropsy and histopathology submissions from a large portion of the state's food animal population. As such, this Veterinarian will be involved in the diagnosis of diseases in food animals and will serve a vital role in the surveillance for foreign animal diseases and zoonotic diseases in the food animal population of Arkansas. The Veterinarian will be involved in education and outreach activities targeting Large Animal Veterinarians and producers including developing and presenting materials on necropsy techniques, sample collection/submission, and diseases of concern.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

The ALPC VDL has had difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified Veterinary Pathologists in the past. It is highly unlikely that ALPC VDL will be able to retain qualified Veterinary Pathologists without the VMLRP. Efforts to retain qualified, experienced personnel in this position have included salary increases as allowed by state budgetary restrictions and approved by the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission Director, and award of the VMLRP in 2014 and 2015.

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 2000 characters or less).

The ALPC VDL is currently fully staffed with two full time Veterinary Pathologists. Based on discussions with the ALPC VDL Director, it will be very difficult to retain these Veterinarians long term due to the current state pay scale and more lucrative opportunities for Veterinary Pathologist. However, one of the current Veterinary Pathologist is willing to commit to the ALPC VDL long term, if the VMLRP is secured for this need area.

Failure to secure the VMLRP for this need area will result in compromising the ALPC VDL's ability to provide high quality and timely veterinary diagnostics to animal owners, producers, and private Veterinarians. In addition, failure to secure the VMLRP for this area may reduce Arkansas' ability to respond to the threat of a Foreign Animal Disease in an efficient and effective manner. Lack of these services could result in an increased risk to animal health, human health, and the production of a safe and wholesome food supply in Arkansas.

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: Brandon Doss, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian (AR)

Organization: AR Livestock and Poultry Commission

Email: bdoss@alpc.ar.gov

Telephone Number: 501-907-2400
(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.