

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: Randolph, Lawrence, Sharp, and Fulton Counties, AR
(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): Intersection of Hwy 412 and Hwy 58 E, Williford, AR 72482
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

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

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

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: _____

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

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

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

(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).

According to the USDA Census, Arkansas is one of the leading states in animal agricultural production. The Northeast region of Arkansas produced approximately 208,000 food animals in 2015. Randolph, Lawrence, Sharp, and Fulton counties are in this region and produced approximately 119,000 food animals in 2015. According to the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Board, there are 2 Veterinary Practices with a predominantly large animal clientele in these counties. One of the Veterinarians in Randolph County requested that this area be included in the VMLRP to facilitate the hiring of an associate and expand food animal services at his practice.

Implementation of the VMLRP in this region is vital to the success of food animal production, the protection of public health, and maintaining economic stability in this area. A minimum 30 percent-time (12 hr/wk, based on a 40 hr/wk FTE) commitment will be required of the successful applicant, with preference given to applicants who exceed this requirement. The objectives for a Veterinarian meeting this shortage situation include providing food animal Veterinary services, recruitment of new Veterinary graduates to practice food animal medicine, and establishing an additional food animal Veterinarian in this region.

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 activities of a Veterinarian meeting this shortage situation will include providing food animal Veterinary services to Randolph, Lawrence, Sharp, and Fulton counties at a minimum. These activities will include basic herd health maintenance (i.e. vaccinations, deworming, production medicine, etc...), farm visits in response to sick or diseased food animals, veterinary surgical and medical treatment as needed, veterinary consultation, providing veterinary oversight in the use of pharmaceuticals in food animals, issuing health certificates, developing a clientele to enable the Food Animal Veterinary Practice to thrive in this area over the long term, and providing veterinary support to the surrounding community that will improve the protection of animal health and public health through the practice of modern, scientifically sound Veterinary Medicine.

A Veterinarian performing the services listed above, in addition to other veterinary medical services for food animals, will greatly enhance Arkansas' food animal production and improve the health of the animals in this geographic location. The improved food animal health will result in increased food safety, improved public health, and economic growth for producers in this area.

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).

There are currently no recruitment or retention efforts specifically for this shortage area. Arkansas has 12 contract slots with Veterinary Colleges in order to facilitate the education of Arkansas Veterinarians. In addition, a bill was passed in the 2011 legislative session that would create a Veterinary Loan Repayment Program for Arkansas residents who graduate from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine and practice food animal medicine in Arkansas. A second bill was passed that created a study to review the shortage of Large Animal Veterinarians in Arkansas. No additional activity has occurred in regards to these two bills.

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).

According to the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Board, the number of Veterinarians in private practice dedicated primarily to food animal medicine has decreased over the past 15 years. In 2015 there were approximately 20 private practice Veterinarians in the state of Arkansas dedicated primarily to food animal medicine. This disturbing trend will continue unless an incentive is provided for Veterinarians to practice food animal medicine in Arkansas. This incentive must be significant enough to offset the financial advantages associated with alternative areas of Veterinary Medicine.

While the number of practicing food animal Veterinarians has decreased across the state, the amount of food animal production in Randolph, Lawrence, Sharp, and Fulton counties has remained consistent. The production statistics for 2015 equate to approximately 59,500 per Veterinary Practice. The thriving production and lack of veterinary services in this region presents a significant and increasing gap in the protection of animal health and human health in this region. If this VMLRP nomination is not secured, the gap in this need area will continue to grow, which will increase the risk to animal health, public health, environmental health, economic stability, and the production of a safe and wholesome food supply in Northeast 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.