

# 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](http://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: Modoc County, California  
(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): Alturas, California  
(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 monitoring and eradication of disease is important in all aspects of veterinary medicine, but absolutely essential for the quality of our food supply and safety to the consumer, as well as for protection against the entry and spread of Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD). This all begins at the level of the livestock themselves; veterinarians work closely with farmers and ranchers to ensure detection of disease is immediate and appropriately treated to ensure food safety. With a large percentage of the state's beef being produced in Modoc County, a veterinarian with food animal experience is a necessity. Modoc is primarily a cow/calf-producing county with extensive management and veterinarian interaction. The veterinarian would be required to not only ensure food safety in Modoc but also Lassen and Shasta counties as the shortage runs three counties wide. This is a remote region of the State; however, but FADs can enter and exit the area through livestock markets and local management practices, such as moving cattle to other states seasonally. This remoteness might provide a buffer from entry, but if a FAD enters undetected there is risk for smoldering/spreading amongst wildlife and domestic livestock before detection occurs, hampering early eradications.**

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).

**The veterinarian would be able to perform duties of a food animal practitioner including, but not limited to: pregnancy diagnosis, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties, Foreign Animal Disease monitoring, semen evaluation, trichomoniasis testing and diagnosis, and overall herd health (vaccination, castration, and testing requirements for state and federal regulations). Not only would the veterinarian fulfill these responsibilities, he/she would need to be proficient in small animal medicine to provide service to the companion animal clientele of the area including emergencies. Excellent communication and time management are also needed in this individual. Covering over 64,000 head of cattle just in Modoc County, the veterinarian will be responsible for over 15,000 head individually. Traditionally, there are three veterinarians to cover all of Modoc and into the northern areas of Lassen and Shasta counties. Although there are "mixed animal practitioners" in the area, the majority of these veterinarians do not understand the cattle operation enough to provide a confidence in the producer that their animals are crucial to the food supply and that they can provide adequate care to ensure food safety.**

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).

**While veterinarians have been hired in this area over the last six years, none stayed more than two years. Being a rural area with limited amenities appealing to younger veterinarians, an incentive to retain veterinarians in this area is of utmost importance to the retired veterinarians and ranchers to maintain livestock health and prosperity. A nomination was submitted in 2010, but at that time there were still two veterinarians closing in on retirement still counted in the veterinarians/head of cattle count. Today there are only 3.5 veterinarians performing food animal service in Modoc County (and northern Lassen and Shasta Counties).**

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).

**Due to the high turnover of veterinarians in Modoc County, the security of the beef herds in the area are at risk. If a veterinarian is not placed in this area that plans to remain for the long term, the safety of the beef supply and animal welfare are in jeopardy. The farming and ranching families in this community have passed their farms and ranches down**

through generations and expect the same level of veterinary care and acknowledgment that they have always received. Without veterinarians the safety of our food supply is in danger and could be pushed out of Modoc County and possibly even out of state to fulfill those needs. The veterinarian is the first line of defense in recognizing disease and preventing the spread to other livestock, and even wildlife, before a food safety or public health concern arises.

(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.

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**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: Dr. Annette Jones

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: California Department of Food and Agriculture

Email: Annette.Jones@cdfa.ca.gov

Telephone Number: (916) 900-5000  
(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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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