

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: Imperial County
(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): Brawley, CA
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

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).

Imperial County occupies 4,175 square miles of the State and it borders on Nevada, Arizona and the country of Mexico. The county is home to most of California's feed yards (373,866 head in 2009) and in the winter it is a common location for sheep from across the west to be wintered. The feeder lamb industry in 2009 accounted for 140,000 head. In addition, the County also has some dairy, goats and range cattle production as well. In total animal agriculture was a 343 million dollar business for the County (2009 statistics). The goal is to use the VMLRP program to help attract much needed large animal veterinary services.

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 primary industry a veterinarian would serve is the feedlot industry, a great opportunity to practice population medicine as they must be on top of diseases, nutritional deficiencies and other factors that can contribute to poor weight gains and outright illness. They also can provide services typical to the dairy industry including pregnancy verification. Because California still requires vaccination for Brucellosis there is a need for an accredited veterinarian to vaccinate local dairy and beef heifers. Given the location of the County and significant degree of animal movements into the area from other states, a veterinarian's skill is needed for disease surveillance.

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 large animal practitioner needs continue in the county yet the number of permanent food animal veterinarians serving the County has gone from 2-3 ten years ago to none now. There is one small animal practitioner that is willing to make some large animals calls; otherwise service comes from a distance, specifically from Arizona. This is a relatively remote area of the State without the large city attractions and additionally is one of the hottest areas in the nation. However, the livestock industry here provides great opportunities for a practitioner.

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).

Maintaining adequate animal health vigilance in this County is extremely important to the entire state. There is a true need for continued veterinary service here because: 1) feeder cattle come in from across the United States and Mexico, 2) sheep from across the western United States may be wintered in this area, and 3) because it is on the border the flow of wildlife across the border makes for an increased risk for entry and harboring of contagious animal diseases. Without adequate veterinary service in Imperial County the State of California is at risk.

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: Annette Jones, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: CA Dept of Food and Agriculture

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(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.