

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: Connecticut, USA
(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): Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
(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 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)

- 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: CT Dept. of Agriculture Position Title: Field Veterinarian

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Field work associated with the state's animal and poultry disease prevention and control programs

(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 Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture is in need of the services of a state-employed field veterinarian to assist the State Veterinarian with animal and poultry disease prevention and control programs; assist with disease and natural disaster emergency response activities; assess production situations and conditions for compliance with acceptable agricultural practices and laws including sanitation, animal care and environmental and public health impacts and assist the Department's Livestock and State Animal Control Divisions with animal cruelty investigations. The expertise of an on-farm field veterinarian is needed to support and oversee work currently performed by the Department's animal health technicians.

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 field veterinarian would conduct animal and poultry disease surveillance testing; establish protocols for surveillance testing conducted by Department employed animal health technicians; assist in the administration of disease prevention and control programs; recognize the early signs of infectious diseases and advise the State Veterinarian on the issuance of regulatory orders; conduct epidemiologic investigations of disease outbreaks; work in conjunction with UDSA, APHIS, VS on certain disease control programs; assist the State Veterinarian with emergency response plans and their implementation; conduct outreach with producers to enhance biosecurity practices, the production of safe and wholesome food products and adherence to accepted agricultural practices; assist in animal cruelty investigations; and assure compliance with and enforce state and federal laws.

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).

Two field veterinarian positions within the Department were eliminated in 1993 due to state budget cuts. Attempts have been made to fund at least one field veterinarian position but have been unsuccessful due to budgetary constraints even though the need exists.

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).

Currently, most all disease program surveillance testing is conducted by animal health technicians. The expertise of a veterinarian is needed to oversee this testing in field situations and to recognize early signs of disease to enhance response time. The expertise is also needed to interact with producers to promote animal and poultry health; to assure the production of safe animal-derived food products to reduce the risk of food borne illnesses; to reduce the risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases and to maintain disease-free status of animals and poultry to facilitate interstate and international movement of animals and poultry and their products by Connecticut producers.

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: Mary Jane Lis, MS, DVM, PhD

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Email: Mary.Lis@ct.gov

Telephone Number: (860)713-2505 (clerical); (860)713-2546 (direct)
(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.