

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for 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 position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

State of Delaware

Location of Veterinary Shortage: _____
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Newark, DE 19716

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

Type I Shortage: Private Practice
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other _____

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other : _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
 Employer: University of Delaware, Dept. _____ Position Title: Veterinary
 of Animal & Food Sciences _____ Anatomic Pathologist

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Poultry and livestock pathology _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting 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 main objective of the veterinarian filling this shortage situation would be to retain a veterinarian who will augment the diagnostic capabilities of the poultry and food animal health diagnostic laboratories in Delaware through histopathologic diagnostic service for the public good, including animal disease surveillance and support of research related to poultry and food animal health, food safety, and/or public health (zoonotic disease). The veterinarian, a certified veterinary pathologist, must commit at least 50% time (20 hours) towards this important public service to satisfactorily fill the nominated situation. The veterinarian would also be an integral part of the epidemiological team concerned with rapid detection, reporting, and response to disease outbreaks in Delaware animal populations. This veterinarian would be in a position to educate and consult with animal science students, animal producers and their industry partners, and citizens on issues related to animal and public health and food safety.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The major duty of the veterinary pathologist in this position is to provide histopathologic diagnostic service for the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA - poultry and animal health section) through the agency's partnership with the University of Delaware (UD) Lasher Laboratory, which is located in the Southern part of the state, where the poultry industry is most concentrated. The pathologist also supplies diagnostic service to the Maryland Department of Agriculture to allow for uniform service within the Delmarva region. Employment is based on the main UD campus in Newark, DE (Northern part of Delaware) due to proximity to the CANR Comparative Pathology Laboratory, which provides histology support for the Lasher Laboratory.

Beyond diagnostic service, the pathologist is responsible for providing research support for researchers engaged in projects related to poultry, food animal, and other animal health, as well as related to animal models of human disease. The candidate is available for education and consultation to governmental, academic, and private partners regarding animal/human health and food safety as an expert in the field of veterinary pathology.

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).

The incumbent filled a deficit from retirement of the original service pathologist, who voluntarily delayed retirement for years due to inability to recruit a suitable replacement despite multiple attempts. The poultry pathologist applicant pool is dwindling and newly-certified veterinary pathologists tend to enter either industry or academic positions at veterinary colleges due to higher salaries and diagnostic support (shared resources, service time, and expertise) from other pathologists. The UD does not have a veterinary college. This candidate is the sole public service pathologist for Delaware. Given the duration and effort of previous recruitment attempts, current candidate retention is vital for diagnostic service continuity for the state.

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).

The Lasher Laboratory at the University of Delaware and its regional partner, the Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory in Maryland, essentially serve as the “front line” for rapid and early diagnosis of disease outbreaks within Delmarva poultry flocks. Poultry case submissions through the laboratories and food animal cases submitted directly to the pathologist are critical for detecting and limiting the spread of disease agents of both food safety and animal/public health concern within Delaware and the surrounding region. Retention of this position is imperative to maintaining crucial histopathologic diagnostic service for the poultry and other food animal producers of the region.

Since the Delmarva region produces nearly 600 million broiler chickens annually for domestic and international consumption, reduction or elimination of histopathology service to the diagnostic laboratories from loss of this veterinary position could potentially have a significant negative impact on regional, national, and international food safety and public health, as well as on regional and national economics. Failure to provide in-state histopathologic diagnostic service would also force our laboratories to ship diagnostic specimens out-of-state to maintain service, thereby increasing time to diagnosis and cost to our already economically-challenged producers who may respond by submitting less case material to the laboratories. Either outcome could result in failure to promptly detect and control disease outbreaks, creating the potential for serious animal or public health consequences.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.

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Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Heather L. Hirst

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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, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.