

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 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: "Delaware North": Central portion of Delaware--all of Sussex and Kent Counties, plus small part of New Castle 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):

Harrington, DE (19952), Milford, DE (19963), or Dover, DE (19901)

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

Overall Priority of Shortage: [x] 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: _____

[x] 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
[x] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[x] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

May cover

- [x] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[x] Swine
[x] Poultry
[] Small Ruminant
[x] Other: _Bison, camelids, ratites

[] 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).

Retaining a food animal veterinarian or bringing in an additional food animal veterinarian to Delaware will provide animal producers with a local source of expertise with regards to diseases and management of food animal species. Many Delaware animal producers in the part of the state described in this shortage have been living without a local food animal veterinarian for many years. In addition to providing routine preventive medicine visits, tending to sick animals, and responding to emergency calls, a veterinarian with food animal expertise would serve the producers by acting as a consultant with regards to tough issues such as animal welfare, public perception of routine agricultural practices, the relationship between food animals and public health, and responsible use of antibiotics.

There are currently 3 veterinarians who practice with food animals in Delaware. Because these 3 veterinarians do less than 100% food animal practice, Delaware proposes to run our calculations based on 2 veterinarians, even though we suspect the combination is still less than 2 full time equivalents for food animal practice.

The objective is to cover an area centered in Harrington or Milford, DE with a 30 to 40 mile radius. The veterinarian could even live in Dover and still be near the center of this general practice area. Dover may be attractive because it is the State Capitol and the second largest city in Delaware. Sussex and Kent counties in Delaware comprise the major service area for this position. This shortage area covers the same two counties in DE as described by “Delaware South” nomination, but it differs in that **it covers all of Kent county and extends north** into part of New Castle county.

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 minimum time commitment for food animal work is **30%**. The veterinarian will spend at least 12 hours a week engaged in food animal practice. The remaining 28 hrs/week may be spent caring for companion animals or equines. **Dairy** work, with an emphasis on population medicine and preventive health, may be one aspect of the practice. Advice is routinely sought by Delaware producers in the areas of nutrition, mastitis, and reproductive programs. Another area of time commitment will be for routine and non-routine visits to **small ruminant, beef cattle, swine, and backyard poultry** operations.

In accordance with NASS data from 2012 Census and 2014 estimates, Delaware’s most updated breakdown of premises can be found in Table 1 below. There are also a handful of bison, captive cervid, ratite, and camelid owners who require veterinary services. There are approximately 900-1,100 backyard flocks in Delaware which contain a mixture of poultry species (chickens, geese, ducks, guinea fowl). The overall ratio is 0.28 veterinarians/100 premises for all of Delaware, excluding backyard flocks and premises with minor species (bison, water buffalo, captive cervid, ratite, and camelid). Delaware has 500,000 acres of land in farm (40% of the State’s land) and the estimated annual cash revenue for species in Table 1 is approximately \$10.5 million.^{a,d}

Table 1. Delaware: number of food animal premises and inventory. ^aNASS Census, 2012; ^bNASS survey estimate January 1, 2014; ^cNASS survey estimate December 1, 2014; ^dEconomic Research Service, 2013 farm income data.

Livestock Type	Number of farms	Number of animals (Inventory)	Number of animals sold	Cash revenue, animals sold
All cattle & Calves	431 ^a	16,000 ^b	10,481 ^d	\$7,547,000 ^d
Hogs & Pigs	59 ^a	4,000 ^c	23,422 ^d	\$2,820,000 ^d
Sheep & Lambs	69 ^a	1,040 ^a	548 ^a	\$91,000 ^a
Goats	154 ^a	2,008 ^a	872 ^a	\$125,000 ^a
TOTAL	713	23,048		\$10,583,000

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 Delaware office of the SAHO sent notification to all the veterinarians in Delaware for whom she has emails to let them know about the “retention” aspect of applying for loan repayment. The SAHO also asked DE veterinarians to spread the news to new graduates who might be interested in food animal practice in DE. We will continue to use the DE veterinary medical association as a great resource for assisting with broadcasting the news to the veterinary industry both locally and in other regions of the US. This year the SAHO will reach out to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) to investigate whether they have a mechanism for publicizing the shortage situations available in Delaware.

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 greatest risk is that a **foreign animal disease** will enter the State and go undetected or unreported because of the fact that many producers do not have easy access to a local veterinarian. Delaware has one State Veterinarian and one Deputy State Veterinarian. Because we do not have any designated “field veterinarians” employed with our state, it is not possible to maintain strong connections with any significant percentage of Delaware’s animal producers. We must rely heavily on practicing veterinarians to act as our eyes and ears, informing us of unusual disease events or unhealthy management practices.

As described in the previous section, there are only 0.28 food animal veterinarians per 100 premises in Delaware (2007 Census data), excluding backyard flocks. Our neighbors (Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey) have significant food animal populations that would be in grave danger if a **foreign animal disease** were to go unnoticed for more than a day or two in Delaware. The presence of food animal veterinarians in Delaware will have many benefits to the health of the environment and the public. A few examples of how veterinarians can positively influence these areas:

- reduce the number of drug residues in milk and meat by routinely discussing record keeping, sick animal management, and proper dosing and administration of pharmaceuticals
- increase awareness of zoonotic diseases and how to best prevent their transmission on farms.

(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.

%

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: Heather L. Hirst

Title: State Animal Health Official for Delaware

Organization: Delaware Department of Agriculture

Email: heather.hirst@state.de.us

Telephone Number: 302-698-4560
(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.

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