

# 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: Service Area 4: Marion, Levy, Alachua, Citrus, Gilchrist counties as well as portions of Sumter, Putnam, Clay, Union, Columbia, Dixie, Lafayette, Lake, and  
(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): US Hwy 41 & US 27, Williston, FL 32646  
(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 II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/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: Cervidae

#### 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.

**50** %

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).

This shortage area is in a rural north central area of Florida, with an estimated 249,000 cattle. It includes large dairies and smaller farms with beef cattle, small ruminants and increasing number of captive cervidae herds. There are 9 actively practicing veterinarians (30% or more of their time in food animal practice) working within this area. These veterinarians also provide veterinary services to a large number of horses and to companion animals. This service or practice area, with a radius of 50-60 miles, extends over portions of eight counties. Marion County is best known as a "Horse Capital" but scattered among the horse farms are numerous ranches and farms with food supply animals. In addition, many of the horse farms also have cattle in addition to the horses. This practice area has been designated as a Type II shortage area, as equine and companion animal work will be required to ensure practice viability. Objectives in addressing this shortage area include direct diagnosis and treatment, consultations on disease prevention and control, and herd health work on both small and large food animal operations.

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).

Small producers and small ruminant producers – This is a growing component of food animal practice in this area. The large ethnic population in the state consumes a large amount of small ruminant product; therefore, the industry is exploding. Urban sprawl has resulted in an increasing number of small producers with limited knowledge of basis herd health and management. These producers desire to have individual animal care more frequently than do the large producers. This area covers the counties where several youth fairs with high participation and active programs for youth livestock projects are located.

- Herd health and general management
- Emergency care
- Education

Dairy herds –A portion of this area extends into a dairy shed region of the state. There are also several goat dairies in this service area. Veterinarians involved with these dairies are working with the management and as well as some individual animal care. They are important in the development of management plans for each class of animals that includes health and welfare of the individuals and the herd as a whole. Consultation and herd health

- o Reproductive management
- o Vaccination programs
- o Prescriptions [Withdrawal issues, approved product concerns]
- o Nutrition management and problem solving

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).

While past efforts to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians are not well documented, efforts have been made to hire and retain food animal veterinarians in this shortage area. Surveys of producers and veterinarians have indicated that problems of insufficient income, more hours worked, and the physical hardships have made it more difficult to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians.

The smaller production farms in this area have made food animal practice less economically viable, and less amenable to recruitment or retention efforts. There is, however, demand, particularly if companion animal practice is coupled with a 50% or more food animal practice

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).

Risk of not securing or retaining positions:

- Negative Impact on Animal/Farm or Ranch Health and Welfare
  - Many farms or ranches, particularly smaller operations, will not have access to veterinary services
  - Individual animals and herds will lack preventative veterinary care, and diagnostic services and treatment resulting in increased animal morbidity and mortality
  - Increased production and economic losses to producers
  - Lack of expertise/consultation to promote overall health/welfare through improved vaccinations, nutrition, and reproductive programs
- Negative Impact on Community/State/Federal Food Animal Industries
  - Undiagnosed and untreated disease transmission within herds and between adjacent herds or exposure in marketing channels
  - Lack of first line of defense in recognizing/reporting suspected foreign or emerging diseases of significant concern to state and federal officials for emergency investigation and response (Florida is at very high risk of foreign animal disease introduction because of its geographic location, climate, and high volume of international trade)
  - Lack of immediate or farm action to limit disease spread and initiate regulatory action can have enormous negative economic impact on producer, community, state and national industry for highly contagious reportable diseases
  - Reduction in overall animal health and welfare with increased public concerns relative to humane treatment
- Negative Impact on Food Safety/Public Health/Environment
  - Lack of guidance and direction on selection and usage of vaccines/drugs to enhance efficacy and food safety
  - Lack of guidance and directions on issues such as drug withdrawal times, carcass disposal, and zoonotic disease risks that may impact public health

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: Michael A. Short, D.V.M.

Title: State Veterinarian, Director

Division of Animal Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 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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