

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: Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, Dade, Dawson, Douglas, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Lumpkin, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Towns, Union, Walker, White and Whitfield Counties in Georgia
 (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): Gordon County, Georgia
 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical 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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Must cover(check at least one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p>May cover</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|---|--|

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: Georgia Dept. of Agriculture Position Title: : District Veterinary Supervisor

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).

The Georgia Meat Inspection Section (GMIS) is mandated by law to perform all Program tasks "at least equal to" the federal meat and poultry inspection program standards. Of the five geographical Districts in Georgia which must have a District Veterinary Supervisor (DVS) there are two vacant positions. The Supervisors administer the GMIS in accordance with USDA/FSIS and Georgia rules and regulations to ensure that only wholesome meat derived from healthy animals, safe from harmful chemicals and drug residues enter the human food chain.

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).

This GMIS District Veterinary Supervisor would directly supervise GMIS inspection personnel performing humane handling verifications, ante-mortem inspections, postmortem inspections, and sanitation verifications during the slaughter of meat animals intended for sale. The DVS are required to perform final dispositions on all abnormal animals. They provide direct supervision to personnel who inspect the processing of meat and meat food products and enforce the regulations governing cutting, boning, curing, smoking, sausage manufacturing, formulation, and labeling. DVS oversee the safety and health programs for employees and all personnel actions within their District. They coordinate with the Meat Compliance Officers the distribution in commerce of meat products by Georgia meat processors, haulers, retail stores, food warehouses, restaurants, schools, etc. They provide professional oversight of the GMIS sampling and testing program of carcasses and finished products for microbiological and chemical hazards.

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).

Recruitment for the two Vacant DVS positions has been hampered because of lack of funding for raises and budget cuts at the State/National level during the past limited economic times. However, this year employees will receive a raise. Many veterinarians interested in Meat Inspection service have veterinary school loans which cause financial hardship if income received is not adequate to cover the cost of living and loan repayment. The Department of Ag has advertised the position and recruited at State meetings and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Once hired for three years the past DVS have stayed for at least eight years or more.

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).

Agriculture is Georgia's number one industry and according to the US Meat Industry statistics Georgia is one of the top Poultry slaughtering states. Animal slaughtering operations in Georgia account for 5.1 billion in Gross State Product and employ 34,000 workers. Three of the 4 largest poultry plants are located in North Georgia. Georgia has 99 state inspected meat processing plants within the five Districts and 25 within the requested area. Six of the plants slaughter meat (beef, pork, goats) and the rest poultry. Meat inspection is paramount to safe food. Trained District Veterinary Supervisors perform many duties involved in the processing of meat and meat food products, meat products distribution and commerce by meat processors, schools, hotels, roadside stands, and flea markets and respond to complaints from consumers and the general public. Meat inspection is important to make sure that dangerous organisms/contaminants such as E.coli, Listeria, and Salmonella do not contaminate our food supply. Also, randomly-selected samples must be checked for possible residues such as antibiotics, pesticides and hormones. A recent CDC report estimated that foodborne diseases sicken millions of people each year with 325,000 hospitalizations. A District Veterinary Supervisor position would help insure a safer meat inspection system within Georgia and prevent shipment of contaminated food products to other states and countries. Without this position the State may lose present employees due to the increasing work demands, causing decreased (available and new) inspection, production and money for the state.

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: Robert M. Cobb, Jr. DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Georgia Department of Agriculture

Email: Robert.Cobb@agr.georgia.gov

Telephone Number: 404-656-3671
(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.