Shortage ID GA202
VMLRP USE ONLY

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0050
Expiration Date: 9/30/2019

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: Atkinson, Coffee, Ware, Clinch, Bacon, Pierce, Lanier, Lowndes, Cook, Berrien, Tift, Irvin, 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): Atkinson County, Pearson, Georgia 31642
(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 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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle	☒ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine	☐ Swine
☐ Poultry	☒ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____	☐ Other: _____

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.

☐ %

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).

According to the AVMA FSVM website there are presently 74 counties in Georgia that do not have a veterinary practice devoted to food supply Veterinary Medicine and all but 9 of these counties are located adjacent to each other, increasing the distance that existing veterinarians must travel to support food animal producers. There are approximately 10 more counties that have food supply veterinarians that are past retirement age but are continuing to practice until they can recruit their replacement. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture there are approximately 7,954 cattle/calves, 4,324 beef cows and 524 goats in Atkinson County with the surrounding counties within 50 miles (Ware, Coffee, Bacon, Irwin, Berrien, Lanier, Cook, Tift, Clinch, Pierce and Lowndes counties) having 73,065 cattle/calves, 6,390 goats/sheep, and 10,960 hogs and no food animal veterinarians.

The objective would be for a veterinarian to establish a clinic (mobile or permanent building) in one of the underserved counties and provide disease diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance, consultations on disease prevention and control, and herd health work. While some of the counties in this designated area could not economically support an 80% Food Animal Medicine practice they could support a 30 to 50% practice. The veterinarian in this area could provide routine and emergency service to the surrounding counties for a 50 mile radius. Placing a food supply veterinarian in this area is needed.

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 characteers or less).

A veterinarian in this shortage area would be expected to provide veterinary service to most species of animals including beef and dairy cattle, swine, small ruminants, horses, dogs, and cats on a routine and emergency basis. The veterinarian would provide advice on preventative medicine and reproductive management issues including appropriate and timely vaccinations, prudent antimicrobial use, general animal husbandry and welfare, and designing biosecurity procedures for their operations. These mixed practice veterinarians will help to improve animal health, enhance the economic sustainability of local producers, and provide management advice to help protect the public from the threat of zoonotic disease transmission. These practitioners also will serve as the first line of defense against the possible introduction or spread of contagious foreign animal diseases as the rapid detection of these diseases, should an outbreak occur, is the first and perhaps the most important step toward preventing a massive loss to the livestock industry and economy should an agent be introduced into their region.

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).

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine began a Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program in 2007. This early admission program is designed to attract high school students interested in food supply medicine. The students enroll in the College of Agriculture, with guaranteed admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine after completion of their degrees in Animal and Dairy Science. This program mentors these students and should lead to a greater retention of them in Georgia. Each year the College holds a career day for mixed animal practitioners and students interested in employment in Georgia.

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).

One of the greatest risks associated with a lack of food supply veterinarians in these under served counties in Georgia is the length of time a zoonotic or foreign animal disease would be present before it was detected and reported thus increasing the potential spread of disease to other animals or the public during this time. In addition, there is substantial risk of producers or lay people making treatment recommendations that might lead to an adulteration of either meat or milk as well as subpar animal health and thus animal suffering. Throughout many of the counties currently without food animal veterinarians, there are many small beef cattle operations that often do not receive appropriate veterinary input into medical treatment decisions due to the expense involved with bringing a licensed veterinarian in from another county or region of the state. Through improved animal husbandry and management advice, veterinarians in these counties would promote better management and treatment decisions and lead to a safer food supply locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. By providing improved preventative medicine to the herds and flocks in these areas the veterinarians would be helping to ensure that affordable high quality protein continues to be available for consumers, lessen animal suffering due to lack of proper veterinary care, and reduce inappropriate antimicrobial or anthelmintic use in many local herds and flocks to prevent drug residue violations. Surveillance and emergency preparedness in this part of the state are key to protecting Georgia's poultry industry (our largest agricultural industry).

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

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