

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: Nomination # 3 - A geographic area with a 50 mile radius that includes all or part of the following Kentucky Counties; Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Christian, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Hopkins, Logan, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Warren

(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): Morgantown; Intersection of William Natcher Pkwy and KY 70

(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)

- X Beef Cattle X Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry X Small Ruminant [] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle [] Dairy Cattle X Swine X Poultry [] Small Ruminant [] Other: _____

[] 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).

Of the 50 states Kentucky, according to the 2012 National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) Ranked Items, ranks 16th in cattle and calf, 15th in poultry and egg, and 18th in hog and pig market value demonstrating a significant contribution to the national food production system. This nominated area has, according to the NASS County Estimates, 561,900 cattle and calves. The Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) currently lists 78 members registered as food animal, large animal, or mixed practice veterinarians in this area yielding a 1:7,203.85 veterinarian to cattle ratio. Demographics indicate that many of these veterinarians are older and have limited their practice or are retired. As such, they are reluctant to serve producer groups, Extension, and Farm Bureau Advisory Committees. 55% of the food animal veterinary practices in Kentucky have only one veterinarian despite attempts to recruit new veterinarians.

The objectives for a veterinarian in this area are to provide relief to the increasing practitioner shortage, improve the food animal veterinary care, provide necessary advisory and regulatory functions for producers and enhance the entire animal agriculture economy of the area. This area overlaps with the other nominated areas due to the central concentration of Kentucky's cattle population.

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).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation will be dedicating at least 30% of their work time to providing routine veterinary care to cattle, small ruminants, swine and poultry. This care will include preventive herd health consultation, parasitology, reproductive work, diagnostic work on sick or debilitated animals and emergency services. This person will also provide regulatory services to food animal producers including brucellosis and tuberculosis testing, certifying and accrediting herds for brucellosis and tuberculosis respectively, writing of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, utilizing official animal identification for good traceability, brucellosis calf hood vaccination and will promote the adherence to food safety standards. This person will be the first line of defense for the recognition of a foreign animal disease and will response appropriately to federal and state agencies. A food animal practitioner in this area will be available to work with local producer groups and youth organizations such as 4H and FFA to share vital information and training that will improve, protect and help sustain the agricultural economy of Kentucky and the nation.

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).

Individual veterinarians in private practice in this area compete for the few veterinarians who graduate from veterinary school with an interest in food animal practice. The recent trend indicates that multi-person practices have a better opportunity to hire a veterinarian than a solo practitioner possibly because of the sharing of work load and other benefits a larger practice may provide.

Agricultural organizations, in cooperation with the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, have provided a small loan repayment program to encourage large / food animal practitioners to practice in underserved areas of the state. That program has been suspended due to a lack of funding.

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).

Kentucky producers provide significant numbers of feeder and dairy cattle vital to the food supply of the nation. The sheep and goat industry is expanding significantly in Kentucky providing increased market animals. Additionally, local backyard poultry flocks are increasing in popularity to meet the farmer market and public demand for locally produced food. Veterinarians provide the expertise needed to maintain a healthy herd or flock. The shortage of food animal veterinarians available for herd health visits/consultations, surgery and emergency after hour visits is putting the Kentucky producer's herds and flocks at risk. In the absence of veterinary consultation, producers may use veterinary pharmaceuticals inappropriately putting a potentially dangerous product into the food chain. As food safety issues are a

major component of the ability to export animals the viability of livestock industries depends on the expertise of professionally trained food animal practitioners.

Current food animal practitioners have had to limit their coverage area or their working hours to maintain dependable service to the producers they serve. Veterinarians often cannot afford to travel over fifty miles at reasonable fees due to sound practice economics. With the increasing age of the average food animal practitioner if the current field is not supported by additional younger food animal practitioners joining their practices this area will suffer due to decreased service.

It should be noted that the nominations submitted by Kentucky share the same objectives and justification. This results from Kentucky's centralized distribution of cattle and the food animal practitioner shortage within that distribution.

(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: Robert C. Stout

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Robert.c.stout@ky.gov

Email: 502-573-0282 opt #3

Telephone Number: _____
(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.

Robert C. Stout
State Veterinarian
109 Corporate Dr
Frankfort, KY 40601
Created by Dana Jenkins
Date 1.9.2015

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health

Legend

 County Boundary Polygons

