Shortage ID MD213
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: 12/31/2022

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: Somerset and Worcester counties in Maryland
(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): In the vicinity of Princess Anne(21853), Pocomoke City (21851), or Snow Hill (21863) MD
(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).

Placing a food animal veterinarian in this region of Maryland will provide animal producers with an enhanced local source of expertise pertaining to diseases and management of food animal species. The area has lost several food animal practitioners in the past years without replacement. In addition providing routine preventative medicine visits, tending to sick animals, and responding to emergency calls, a veterinarian with food animal expertise would serve producers by acting as an expert consultant with regard to nutrition, animal welfare, and public perception of routine agricultural practices, the relationship between food animals and public health, antibiotic resistance, and being proactive as opposed to defensive when dealing with issue surrounding animal husbandry. The anticipated time commitment for food animal work is at least 30%.

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).

The veterinarian filling the shortage will spend a minimum of 12 hours per week engaged in food animal practice. The practice area includes small ruminants, beef cattle, and noncommercial poultry. It is anticipated that the veterinarian filling the shortage would spend the remaining portion of their professional effort in a combination of food animal, equine, or companion animal practice. This area of Maryland is on the eastern shore. The Maryland counties in this proposed designated area have a total of 1 to 2 food animal veterinarians. This number has decreased since 2013 where there were 9 practicing veterinarians. This area has numerous commercial poultry and food animal commercial operations which employ their own veterinarians, who do not provide any veterinary service to the private sector. The counties are also within reasonable practice distance to Accomack county, Virginia and Sussex county, Delaware. It is anticipated that a veterinarian filling this critical shortage area would provide some service in one or more of these out of state county

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).

No formal recruiting effort has been undertaken by this agency or any other state agency. This area has been the subject of numerous discussions concerning food animal workforce shortages. Empirical information strongly suggests that while the number of noncommercial food animal premises has declined in the past 20 years, the number of veterinary hours of food animal practice has fallen even faster. Producers complain about the difficulty in getting veterinary service; practitioners complain about the difficulty in hiring and retaining new associates.

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).

This is a very under-served multi county food animal practice area in Maryland. The greatest risk is that a foreign animal disease will enter the State and go undetected or unreported because many producers do not have easy access to a local veterinarian. Maryland like all states relies heavily on the valuable partnership between the veterinarian and the producer to quickly identify and report suspected foreign animal diseases and other animal disease outbreaks. Because of known patterns of food animal movement and commerce, adjacent states within the proposed practice area are vulnerable to contagious diseases that occur in this region of Maryland and the reverse.

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 J. Odian DVM

Title: Chief State Veterinarian

Organization: Maryland Department of Agriculture

Email: michael.odian@maryland.gov

Telephone Number: 410-841-5787
(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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