

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 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 #1 - Newton and Scott Counties, Mississippi
Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Third street, near the intersection of state routes 35 and 80 in Forest, Mississippi in Scott county

Overall Priority of Shortage: 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

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): Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Swine, Poultry, Small Ruminant, Other
May cover: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Swine, 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).

The primary objective of a veterinarian serving this area would be to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services by veterinary care in an approximate 50-mile radius from Forest, MS in Scott and Newton counties. This area of the state has a large cattle population, as well as a large number of poultry populations.

Another important objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contributor to the local economy. **This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 50% of their time in food animal practice.** While there is one veterinary satellite clinic in this area, over 42,000 total food animals are serviced by a single veterinarian. (NASS statistics and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine records). This area will require the services of additional veterinary care. Both of these counties are also designated critical need areas by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates with 5,000-25,000 food animals in counties with 0 veterinarians. Rural in nature (Newton Co pop'n - 22,000, Scott Co pop'n - 29,000, US Census), the location of this position will provide accessibility to larger cities such as Jackson and Meridian, Mississippi.

(200 words)

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).

Routine veterinary care would include herd health consultations (including vaccination and parasite control planning, pregnancy examinations and breeding soundness exams), regulatory services in accordance with state and federal health programs, issuance of interstate health papers and animal identification, and emergency veterinary services. The veterinarian will also be expected to demonstrate and educate others on proper animal handling and promote animal welfare according to scientifically-based industry standards.

As one of the largest poultry-producing areas of the state, many operations raise both beef and poultry. Therefore a veterinarian trained in general livestock production who understands public health and environmental issues is important. As needed, this practitioner would be expected to provide support to the state and federal agencies when dealing with regulatory issues such as animal disease outbreaks and movement restrictions. They would be expected to work with Extension and 4-H livestock personnel and provide guidance and education in the areas of animal health and public health, and serve as a model for future food animal veterinarians. This veterinarian will not only serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, but will also serve as a front line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging and exotic animal diseases.

(200 words)

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).

While record of recruitment attempts are circumstantial, CVM externship records show that students go to these areas to gain experience in food animal production. The current practicing veterinarian has had a difficult time in hiring an associate due to the economic realities of the region, yet has expressed an interest in retiring in the near future. Livestock producers and representatives of the state Cattlemen's' Association have also identified a need for additional veterinarians to provide services in the area. Loan repayment assistance will help a food animal practitioner better establish themselves in the community.

(94 words)

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).

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, with agricultural receipts close to \$4.9 bil. Poultry and eggs lead in total agricultural sales, with cattle and calves being the 4th leading commodity. All areas of the state are also experiencing growth in sheep and goat populations. This area of the state has a large number of both cattle and poultry populations, and veterinary services are crucial for the protection of animal health and food security.

Veterinary services available from adjacent counties are limited. It is not practically or economically feasible for nearby veterinarians to expand their coverage area while continuing to provide quality service to their clients. The risks of a veterinarian not being secured or retained are many, including: increased livestock morbidity and mortality due to lack of available veterinary care, improper animal treatments, improper animal handling and increased threats to animal welfare, and the failure to recognize emerging and foreign animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or other chemicals are used improperly or when improper drug withdraws are followed. Environmental health can also be threatened with the lack of guidance for certain product and waste disposal. Thus the proper care and management of food animals will help ensure a safe and wholesome food supply. The lack of a food animal veterinary professional in this region may threaten the entire US and international communities by failure to detect and respond in a timely manner to potential animal and public health concerns.

(250 words)

(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.

50%

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: James A. Watson

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Mississippi Board of Animal Health

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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 9th 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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