



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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 #5 –Jones County, MS
(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): Intersection of Highway 11 and Highway 84 in Laurel, MS in Jones County
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

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 is to address a new, critical shortage of food animal services. The veterinary practice in the area stopped providing large animal services in 2014, leaving no large animal veterinarian residing in Jones County. This is a growing agricultural region, with market value of livestock sales increasing over 20% in the past 10 years (NASS 2012). Over 25% of county land use is in pasture, housing large numbers of livestock. There are over 24,000 cattle/calves (NASS 2012), and an even larger number of stocker cattle that reside in the area. Jones County is also #2 in the state for layer production, and #5 for broilers.

This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 50% of their time in food animal practice. The veterinarian will likely provide some equine and companion animal services. The veterinarian is expected to be based within 20 miles of Laurel, with accessibility to larger communities such as Jackson (90 mi) easily available through Interstate 59. Another objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contribute to the local economy, which provides a base for many other agriculture-related businesses.
(198 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 and breeding soundness examinations, grazing management), state and federal regulatory services, issuance of health papers, animal identification, and emergency veterinary services. While there are no auction barns in Jones County, the state's two largest barns are within an hour of Laurel, and veterinary services are crucial to meet transport requirements. 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. This veterinarian will not only serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, but will also serve as a first line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging/exotic animal diseases.

Jones County is a leading county in 4-H and FFA livestock entries for state livestock exhibitions, and the veterinarian would be expected to work with Extension and 4-H livestock personnel to provide guidance and education in the areas of animal and public health. They would also serve as a model for future food animal veterinarians or health professionals. The veterinarian may also collaborate with Jones County Community College, which has programs in allied health, agriculture, and pre-veterinary/veterinary technology.
(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).

The current practice owners have been reaching out to neighboring counties for client coverage, but other practices are distant and remain busy, making both emergency and routine coverage difficult. Veterinarians in adjacent counties have expressed an interest in expanding their practice staff to provide coverage in this shortage area. There are two veterinary students from this area who have also expressed an interest in returning home to provide services. Due to the recent loss of coverage for services, livestock producers and members of allied industries have also expressed a need for veterinarians to continue to provide services in the area.

(100 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. There are approximately 1.2 mil food animals in MS, with less than 100 large animal veterinarians to service them (NASS, AVMA estimates). This growing agriculture area has large cow-calf and stocker populations, with other livestock sectors such as poultry contributing to the large agriculture economic base of the County. Veterinary services are critical for the economic stability of the area, however, the availability of veterinary services is severely limited.

Risks of a veterinarian not being secured in this area include: increased livestock morbidity and mortality, improper animal treatments, improper animal handling and increased threats to animal welfare, and failure to recognize foreign and emerging animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or chemicals are used

improperly or when improper drug withdrawals are followed. Environmental health can also be threatened with the lack of product or waste disposal guidance. Within the community, the opportunity to properly educate youth on animal health and public health may be diminished by not having a veterinarian involved in venues such as livestock exhibitions, extension programs, and other educational venues. Therefore the lack of a food animal veterinary professional in this area may threaten the entire US and international communities by failure to detect and respond to potential animal and public health concerns.

(229 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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Telephone Number: 601-359-1170
(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.

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