

# 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](http://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: Beaufort, Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Martin and Pitt Counties in North Carolina

(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): Williamston, NC 27892 (Martin 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 six county area of Pitt, Beaufort, Martin, Hertford and Bertie counties represent a historically underserved area in North Carolina. Three of the six counties are currently underserved and have no food supply veterinarians located in their jurisdictions, the other three counties have only three mixed animal practices. Food animal density is large but is predominately corporately owned swine which are attended by company veterinarians. Halifax County is in the top 50% of NC counties in total cattle numbers – 6400 cattle. Pitt County has 2200 beef cattle and but only one practice providing food animal services and one equine service. Greenville, in Pitt County, is a major university town that would be attractive to young professionals. As stated, the corporate swine operations are well served by a professional staff of veterinarians; information provided to the State Veterinarian’s office indicates a legitimate need in this area for veterinarians to provide services to the equine population, to provide services to small cow/calf operations, small back yard “specialty market” swine operations, and a growing goat population in the area. Veterinarians serving these counties would provide invaluable support to the non-corporate farm animal community but would also need to provide companion animal services to create a viable business operation; these criteria justify the Type II nomination.

**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).**

This nomination will support an individual willing to locate within this rural area and provide mixed animal veterinary services. A new practice might be established in any of the six counties or a veterinarian might be employed by existing practices within the six county area to expand large animal services. The individual could provide comprehensive services for all species, with at least 30% dedicated to food animal. As in most underserved areas, the ability to financially support a 100% food animal practice would be difficult, thus the Type II nomination. The activities of a dedicated mixed animal practitioner in this area would greatly assist the preservation and expansion of a vibrant and varied food animal industry in a relatively remote area of North Carolina.

**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).**

Direct information on specific efforts to recruit to this area is not extensive due to the lack of food animal practices in the area. The intent of this nomination is focused primarily on providing the opportunity for a young, recently graduated veterinarian to locate to the area and establish himself/herself within a small community as a professional resource and contributor to the agricultural and social infrastructure of the area.

**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).**

As with many of these underserved areas, the risk of lack of food animal veterinarians will have negative impact on the state's and the nation's animal disease surveillance, food supply, and public health preparedness. This six county area is no different than hundreds throughout the country. Dedicated food animal veterinary availability is critical to foreign and endemic animal disease surveillance. It is well documented that food supply veterinarians serve a key role in public health preparedness, as 75% of emerging human diseases are of animal origin. Veterinarians often serve on small community local public health boards and commissions. The lack of food supply veterinarian availability directly impacts animal welfare, as many producers are reduced to practicing on their own animals beyond the scope of their ability, often with inhumane results and subsequent environmental impact through improper disposal of deceased livestock. The use of antimicrobials without veterinary oversight increases the rate of residue violations in the food supply. The failure of this position not being secured, as with many of North Carolina's nominations, will continue the erosion of critical food supply veterinary infrastructure within one of the largest food animal producing states in the country.

(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.

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**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: R. Douglas Meckes DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Email: doug.meckes@ncagr.gov

919-733-7601

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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046  
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