

# 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: Sampson, Duplin, Wayne, Lenoir, Greene, Jones, and Bladen counties, NC  
(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): Goldsboro, NC (Wayne County) 27534  
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

---

#### For Type I or II Private Practice:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Must cover</b>(check at least one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p><b>May cover</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|--|--|

#### 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.

100 %

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).

This nomination will allow flexibility in the recruitment, hiring, and retention of veterinarians to support the swine industry in eastern North Carolina. The industry has migrated towards an integrated, corporate structure and most companies employ species specific veterinarians to support all aspects of production within the integrated system. Interstate movement of nursery and feeder pigs to the Midwest and cull sows and boars to out of state slaughter plants, requires competent veterinary oversight to ensure freedom from disease and interstate movement regulatory compliance. Advanced training of young veterinarians in swine production will be critical to support of the industry in the coming decades. Sampson, Duplin, Bladen, Wayne, Jones, Greene, and Lenoir counties rank 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 in total hog and pig concentration in North Carolina, the second largest swine producing state in the nation. The importance of this nomination was illustrated by the impact of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PEDv); since its introduction into the NC swine herd in June, 2013, the industry confirmed the disease in over 900 farms with massive death losses in the newborn piglet and nursery pig populations. Veterinary support for disease control, enhanced biosecurity guidance, "feedback" protocols to stimulate immunity, and diagnostic sampling was overwhelmed. The swine industry will benefit greatly from incentives, such as the NVMLP, to attract young veterinarians.

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 characters or less).

Activities of veterinarians working in this state would include: disease surveillance, prevention, and control. He/she would be the first line of observation/contact for both FAD and pork specific regulatory diseases such as brucellosis, PRV, and CSF. Prevention and control of devastating program diseases such as PEDv and PRRS is critical to the economic viability of the industry and the economy of eastern North Carolina. This is critical in a state that weans more pigs than any other state in the US (approximately 16 % of all pigs weaned per recent USDA statistics) and heavily depends on the interstate shipment of pigs. In addition to the collection and evaluation of pertinent health data through disease surveillance, the veterinarian would be engaged in other activities related to the overall herd health management of swine in North Carolina.

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).

The industry has developed programs to identify, encourage and help students (in-state and out-of-state) become swine veterinarians. Examples of these efforts include: summer internships; clinical rotations and mentoring with practicing swine veterinarians to allow on-farm experience and exposure to future professional opportunities; research projects developed in cooperation between pharmaceutical companies and industry to provide students experience and training; and scholarships for swine students through the NCSU's CVM Food Animals Scholars Program and the NC Pork Council. Due to the specialized nature of 100% swine practice, the industry still encounters challenges in attracting young veterinarians to swine practice in North Carolina.

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).

Throughout the country, US pork producers need more veterinarians to care for their pigs. Pork producers rely on veterinarians to safeguard animal health and ensure proper care for their pigs. North Carolina accounts for 12.98% of swine inventory in the U.S., second in the Nation (according to data released in December 2014). However, there are less than 20 full-time practicing swine veterinarians. As mentioned above, the operational structure of NC's swine industry is such that it is heavily dependent on interstate shipment of pigs. In addition, there are two major pork processing plants in the state (one of which is the largest in the country with a daily slaughter capacity of over 30,000 head). Good animal health and disease surveillance are essential to the daily operations of a commercial industry that has an economic impact of more than \$9 billion in the state.

A safe U.S. food supply depends on good animal health and good animal health is necessary to maintain the animal agriculture export markets, now representing a significant part of pork production. The impact of veterinary services on food safety in animal agriculture has never been more critical; an adequate supply of food animal veterinarians is crucial to meet the needs of the industry, the State and the Nation.

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

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: NCDA&CS

Email: doug.meckes@ncagr.gov

Telephone Number: 919-707-3252  
(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.