

# 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: Chatham, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph counties  
(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): Siler City, NC  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High 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:

**Must cover**(check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: Poultry or cattle

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- 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).

This four county area is among the most livestock/poultry dense areas in North Carolina although much of the density is associated with corporate poultry operations which are served by company and allied industry veterinarians. While North Carolina does not contain great numbers of cattle, Randolph and Chatham are among the top 10 counties in cattle numbers (number 2 and 4 respectively). Given the numbers of livestock/poultry, there is a legitimate need in these counties for veterinarians to provide services to the poultry growers and companies, to the small cow/calf operators, and to small back yard specialty market swine operations. Existing veterinary practices in these four counties provide large animal services, so it is unlikely that a recent graduate would move to the area to establish a new practice. However, the opportunity for loan repayment, if the counties are designated a veterinary shortage situation, will provide incentives for new or recent graduates to join and/or remain in the existing practices in this area. In addition, poultry production in North Carolina provides a unique opportunity for utilization of the Loan Repayment Program. New or recent graduate veterinarians considering poultry medicine as a career, take positions with poultry companies that provide veterinary services throughout the state.

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).

This nomination will support an individual willing to locate/practice within this area: for a veterinarian currently employed by an existing practice, the loan repayment program could provide a sufficient incentive to remain in his/her current position; the incentive could allow for the expansion of large animal services and a new veterinary position in an existing practice, or the incentive could support a new or recent graduate in poultry practice in this area. A dedicated livestock practitioner or poultry practice provider serving this four-county area would support a vibrant and varied food animal industry in this region of North Carolina. Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment funds have not previously been awarded to those engaged in poultry practice in North Carolina. However, much the same as veterinarians engaged in practice with the swine industry, new or recent graduate veterinarians considering poultry medicine as a career, take positions with poultry companies that provide veterinary services which incorporate multiple geographic regions throughout the state of North Carolina. To attract these young professionals to poultry medicine, the VMLRP program could consider a model in which applicants engage in poultry practice in multiple geographic regions throughout an agricultural state.

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).

Historical information of specific efforts to recruit for this area is not available. The intent of this nomination is to provide an opportunity (and obvious financial incentives through loan repayment) to attract a young, recent graduate to establish a practice, join an existing practice, or begin a career in poultry medicine, to bring competent veterinary services to this area -- additionally, the value of commitment of a young professional to this area serves the community far beyond the provision of veterinary services.

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).

As is always the case, a food animal veterinary service provider is on the front lines of disease surveillance, for endemic and foreign animal disease and zoonotic diseases. That capability ensures earlier detection, quicker response, diminished incidence of disease in the animal population, and with regard to zoonotic disease, the potential to minimize public health impacts of a zoonotic disease is of no small consequence. As noted earlier, the veterinary professional would be a valuable addition to many rural communities, serving the community well outside the realm of provision of veterinary services. Recent changes in the guidance for the use of antimicrobials (the Veterinary Feed Directive rule) speak again to the value of a veterinary professional serving in these small communities. Should this nomination not be accepted, the incentive for participation in the VMLRP is not available and the area could become or remain under-served by veterinary professionals, allowing for the continued erosion of critical food supply veterinary infrastructure in one of the largest food producing states in the country.

We must note again, the opportunity to support new or recent graduates in poultry practice in this area -- Randolph is number #6 in layers and broiler production and the other counties have significant broiler production.

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

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