

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

**Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for 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 position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination**

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Contiguous counties Gloucester, Cumberland, and Salem, in SW New Jersey  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Town of Woodstown, NJ 08098; CR 40 is in center area, CR 55 on eastern border, Delaware River on western border; northern half of Cumberland county, southern half of Gloucester county, and all of Salem county need service.  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

**Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty**

Type I Shortage: Private Practice  
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)  
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area  
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)  
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other : \_\_\_\_\_

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting 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).

There is a critical lack of food animal veterinarians in this area, due to retirements and/or deaths and non-replacement of veterinarians that have historically served food animal clients. There is currently no bovine veterinarian in this area, as of January 2011. It is difficult to attract a new food animal veterinarian here, due to veterinary school debt, and a perceived lack of ability to establish sufficient income in this area. This area is actively involved in Farmland Preservation, and there is an increasing desire of many small homesteads to raise their own food animals, especially ethnic groups whose cultural preferences are to raise and process their own animal products. We have identified officially 56 poultry farms, with 155,485 backyard birds; one egg-laying facility of 1 million birds; 119 cattle farms with 7,621 head; 32 small swine farms with 371 head; 11 food-waste feeding swine farms with 4,480 head; 43 small ruminant farms with 637 head; and 9 livestock slaughter facilities in this area.\* We suspect that there are more backyard hobby farms with many more food animals that have not been officially accounted for, that could be found by and serviced by an ambulatory veterinarian here.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

We have identified a practice in this area where a veterinarian meeting the VMLRP requirements could be placed and practice food animal medicine no less than 30% of the time, and could increase food animal practice by finding the small backyard hobby farms with food animals via an Ambulatory practice. Companion animal work would make up the remaining veterinary work here. There is a critical need for a food animal veterinarian here, as state regulatory veterinarians are finding that many food animal clients are self-diagnosing and medicating their animals with inappropriate therapeutics, thus potentially causing animal harm and compromising food safety. The VMLRP veterinarian would be invaluable by providing a wide variety of routine food animal veterinary services, diagnostics, procedures, surgeries, client education on food safety, appropriate antibiotic use, and better husbandry management, services required for interstate movement of livestock, Accredited veterinary tests and certificates, consultation on health care programs and nutrition, disease surveillance for federal and state disease programs, and foreign animal disease reporting. This veterinarian could also be involved in New Jersey's veterinary emergency response program and disease control and eradication programs. By protecting food animal health, the VMLRP veterinarian would also be protecting human health.

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 veterinary practice in this area has spent much effort doing its own recruitment through ads in veterinary journals, primarily, and has given up. Because a food animal veterinarian had not been hired, there was no retention process. The NJ Department of Agriculture has reached out to Rutgers University requesting Animal Science professors who know of graduates that were accepted into Veterinary Schools and recently graduated to consider food animal practice in this underserved rural area, but to date, there has been no response. The NJVMA was also contacted, but again, there was no response.

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).

Because this designated underserved rural area has a human population that is increasingly getting interested in farming and in raising their own animals (often with intentions of raising "organically raised" poultry and meat animals), and because many of the human population there have recently moved from urban areas, they have no knowledge on proper care of these animals; thus, the potential for animal disease outbreaks, poor husbandry and animal welfare, self-medicating animals improperly with illegal therapeutics or species-improper therapeutics, and the lack of a food animal veterinarian to be called upon during times of both medical emergencies and preventive medicine visits and education/vaccination programs, would lead to the enormous potential for the human food supply safety to deteriorate, as well as animal health and welfare. Disease outbreaks could occur, and owners could simply bury their dead animals, never knowing who to call for help. Serious disease outbreaks could expand, and foreign animal diseases could never be reported, simply because the community had no food animal veterinarian to reach out to first for help. This has critical negative implications on a wholesome food supply, and animal, human, and environmental health, not only to the immediate community but to the state, region, and nation - with tremendous negative international implications when outbreaks of reportable disease occur and international embargoes of food animals and their products are implemented. The negative trade implications would further harm the national economy as well.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

"NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreements at this time."

\* Livestock & poultry data available from the GDB (Generic Data Base).

Carry-over 2011 nomination to 2012

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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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, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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