

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) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Mercer County in Central New Jersey

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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):

New Jersey Public Health Environmental and Agricultural Laboratory, 3 Schwarzkopf Drive, Ewing NJ 08628

(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: _NJ Department of Agriculture_ Position Title: _Veterinarian 2_

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).

There is a critical lack of veterinarians in food animal veterinary pathologist in NJ. The NJ Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (NJ AHDL) is the only laboratory in NJ dedicated to the testing of specimens to diagnose diseases of food animals; and provide testing for the export of animals and live animal products. A veterinary pathologist would benefit the entire NJ; provide surge capacity for the national disease surveillance and detection programs, and contribute to the success of national control and eradication programs. This enables New Jersey and US to have a rapid, effective response to animal health emergencies, including foot-and-mouth disease and other foreign animal diseases and to protect the food supply and our economy. This position would serve entire NJ and bordering areas of PA, NY, and DE since the NJ AHDL receives submission from these areas. In NJ, 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 that would benefit from this position.

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).

The VMLRP veterinarian would be working in the AHDL's necropsy facility, which is the only necropsy facility in US's most densely populated NJ-NY area. A Veterinary pathologist is often the first to recognize a new disease or health hazard of food animals. This veterinarian meeting the shortage criteria would serve the public by improving and protecting animal and public health by diagnosing diseases in food animals of New Jersey and bordering areas of neighboring states, thereby maintaining herd health and establishing the risk to humans consuming animal products. The VMLRP veterinarian would provide diagnostic veterinary pathology services, obtain case histories from animal owners and veterinarians submitting specimens (e.g. animal bodies, tissues, feed etc.) for diagnostic evaluations. The VMLRP veterinarian would conduct detailed necropsy examination, biopsy examination, and analyze body fluids to diagnose presence and stage of disease in animals, and probable source of contamination or infection. This veterinarian would be invaluable in providing services in support of federal and state disease surveillance programs, and foreign animal disease reporting. This veterinarian would provide outreach services by interacting with agents of livestock, poultry and other allied agricultural industries, county extensions agents, vocational agriculture teachers/students, and other entities.

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 NJ Department of Agriculture has reached out to Rutgers University requesting Animal Science professors to check if they 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).

NJ's location and its demographic make it vulnerable to introduction of foreign animal diseases. NJ and neighboring regions have been determined by USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAM to be at high risk for the introduction of CSF. This is due in part to the garbage fed swine industry in NJ, the high immigrant population, and the proximity of several large international ports. If the position is not filled, NJ will be at a greater risk of not detecting and responding timely to foreign, emerging, and zoonotic animal diseases and therefore causing a great deal of harm to the state and national agricultural industry. This has huge negative international implications when outbreaks of reportable disease occur and international embargoes of food animals and their products are implemented.

The lack of this position can also increase public health threat since early detection of diseases in animals helps protect public from zoonotic diseases.

Additionally, lack of this position is jeopardizing the AHDL's member laboratory status with the USDA's National Animal Laboratory Network.

Unlike major Agricultural states, the laboratory testing of food animals is not significantly subsidized by the State of NJ, which is resulting in inadequate testing and passive surveillance as food animal owners are not willing to submit animals for costlier pathology services. One way to provide subsidized testing is hiring a qualified veterinary pathologist on NJ State funded position by leveraging the VMLRP program. This will help protect NJ's unique animal agriculture.

(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.

%

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: Dr. Manoel Tamassia

Title: Director, Division of Animal Health, State Veterinarian

Organization: New Jersey Department of Agriculture
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Email: (609)671-6400

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