VMLRP Shortage ID Code PA141

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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 –New Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (based in Kennett Square, PA; Chester County)
(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): 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ❑ Moderate Priority X 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)	**May cover**
❑ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ 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)	**May cover**
❑ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ Other: _____

X **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:
X Food Safety
X Public Health
X Epidemiology
X Other: _Food Animal Medicine and Consultant

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).

Both health and societal views continue to shape livestock production practices. With a vibrant resident population base and a diversity of agricultural industries, Pennsylvania (and more broadly, the Mid-Atlantic) is positioned as a critical interface between consumer and producer. Legislative and producer driven initiatives in recent years have increasingly focused attention on livestock well-being during rearing, transport and processing. Additionally, interest in food safety, particularly in effective implementation of prudent antimicrobial use and residue reduction, are receiving broad attention. The objective of this position is to provide a unique regional resource within the veterinary community that provides guidance and performs research that addresses animal welfare concerns along with ensuring sustainable long-term food safety and security. The University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center (NBC) is ideally situated in southeastern PA given its centrality in terms of livestock and resident populations. In addition to low- medium- and high-density livestock operations, the area also has active animal processing facilities and has the most robust livestock export program on the east coast. The NBC campus houses USDA-inspected dairy, swine and poultry research facilities and the educational quorum to train and nurture the proposed individual.

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 focus of the activities is to provide better animal care and to educate veterinary students, veterinarians, producers and consumers on animal well-being, food safety, and prudent antimicrobial use. As the second oldest veterinary school in the US, over 50% of PennVet's student body (~500 students) pursues tracking through either a mixed or large animal focus. PennVet also is active in providing veterinary and producer-oriented continuing education, and is a recognized resource to broad reaching media outlets. The 2007 NASS census lists PA as the 14th largest producer of livestock and livestock products. The highest density of livestock in PA is located within 60 miles of the proposed location, making it an ideal base for the proposed expertise. We envision the ideal candidate to have a species focus, but to be able to address food animal species welfare questions in broader terms and in line with PA livestock strengths. Initiatives are expected to be developed to help producers' document safety, quality, and well-being standards. Prudent use of antimicrobials in animal agriculture will be emphasized. An effort would be made to facilitate marketing opportunities where producers can obtain premiums for improved animal stewardship standards. Ideally the candidate will be eligible for diplomate status in the American College of Animal Welfare and/or demonstrate proficiency regarding animal welfare, food safety, and preventative animal health program implementation.

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).

Challenges addressed by this position reflect a rapidly evolving and prominent issue for animal agriculture. Due to the emergence of this issue veterinarians have not previously been specifically trained nor recruited into this shortage situation. We envisage that this veterinarian will provide a critical resource to food animal producers and food animal practices throughout PA, with availability as a Mid-Atlantic resource. The University of Pennsylvania has recently invested resources to provide veterinary residency training (e.g., ACAW) in this underserved 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).

The failure of farmers to address society's concerns about modern animal agriculture promises to threaten the viability of both individual farms and the animal industries in which these farms serve. In Pennsylvania, several farms as well as livestock auctions have been the target of unsolicited public scrutiny (through legal or illegal means of inquiry). The negative publicity related to the findings of these, often under-cover, activities creates a risk in the market place for these farms or the associated commodity as well as the possibility of legal action. All promise to hamper food production, fuel the need for potentially restrictive laws and ultimately threaten the ability of our country to supply itself with food. Alternatively, the unchecked and naïve zeal for improved animal husbandry practices by fractions within our populace also has the possibility to create a food security risk. The development of a veterinary resource within Pennsylvania to improve on-farm welfare, prudent antimicrobial use and to educate consumers promises to decrease the risk to food safety and security created by these societal concerns. These challenges are not unique to Pennsylvania and thus this position creates a model that could be helpful if implemented in other areas or regions of animal production. Furthermore, efforts to prevent domestic agriculture from going off-shore also promise positive environmental impact as it reduces the carbon footprint of the food we eat and slows the growth of animal agriculture in areas around the world that do not embrace our high expectations for environmental stewardship.

(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

X By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

X 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: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services

Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Email: crashultz@ pa.gov

Telephone Number: 717-783-2200
(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, OGFM, 800 9th 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
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016