

# 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 – Carry-Over Nomination

Tioga, Potter, Clinton, Lycoming Counties

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):

Intersection of Little Pine Creek Rd and PA route 287, English Center, PA 17771

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (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: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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).

NASS data (2007) shows a total farm population of 3,137 in this four county 4,332 square mile area. These counties are serviced by ten mixed animal practice veterinarians devoting more than 30% of practice time to food supply veterinary medicine. The region is rural with a substantial dairy industry and a widely dispersed small ruminant population. Of the 3,137 farms, 608 report income indicative of moderate-to-large-scale commercial activity. The smaller niche market and "hobby" farms tend to request non-routine/emergency veterinary service which is better suited to rural mixed animal practices with income support from companion animal practice, the 30% minimum food animal practice category. Niche market/non commercial food animal populations outside the purview of experienced food supply practitioners present a risk to animal health in commercial operations because they receive limited veterinary information and advice related to nutrition, animal husbandry, biosecurity, disease detection and treatment, proper drug use and correct food harvest and handling techniques. Availability of veterinary services tends to increase veterinarian contact with these operations and enhances information transfer related to the previously mentioned topics. At the same time, increased availability of veterinary information and services enhances the efficiency and profitability of the larger operations in the area.

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 veterinarian recruited to this area will spend at least 30% of their time in food animal practice and the balance with companion animals. Beyond medical and surgical services, this individual will be involved with client outreach and producer education related to production medicine, animal drug residue avoidance, bio-security principles, disease control and animal health monitoring, and livestock well-being. This aspect of practice activity is projected to expand with the planned reduction of Penn State University's Cooperative Extension activities over the next several years. Small farm food supply veterinary medical outreach will enhance animal disease surveillance in a segment of the industry that previously had minimal exposure to professional veterinary services with potential animal health, food safety, and public health benefits. Serving a mixed practice clientele will provide this veterinarian the opportunity to educate non-farm companion animal clients on the critical role of production agriculture in society. Involvement in community organizations and schools provides avenues for youth mentoring, education of the general public and specific producer group meetings.

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 two main practices serving the northern counties in this region each consist of solo practitioners who are over 60 years of age. Neither practitioner has been successful in hiring or retaining associates and while neither plan to leave practice in 2012, retirement is imminent for both. Potter, Clinton and Lycoming counties have no resident food animal practitioners. Veterinary services are provided by practices in adjoining counties which are travelling significant distances to provide that service. The mountain and valley topography adds greatly to travel time and increases difficulty in providing veterinary service across this broad region.

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).

This very large and rural part of northern Pennsylvania has a growing demand for food animal veterinary service from a diverse producer base. Two active livestock auctions provide ample opportunity for producers to purchase animals from many other states and widely disperse animals sold there. With many remotely located herds and flocks, a dangerous transmissible livestock disease and its potential for transfer to resident wildlife species could exist in this area, undetected, for a significant period of time. Producer awareness of proper biosecurity practices and disease recognition in such regions becomes a crucial factor in maintaining the health and safety of the state's commercial food animal population. This situation is made even more critical through the loss of cooperative extension field personnel which further reduces the number of trained observers in the region.

Traditional veterinary services will always be essential, but increasingly there is a need for practitioners with the skills to also provide client education on animal husbandry, disease recognition and prevention, bio-security, responsible animal drug use, production economics, and pre-harvest food safety. Overextended food animal practitioners limited by time and distance, cannot devote adequate efforts to the client education and producer group outreach necessary to insure a healthy food animal population and the associated regional biosecurity and food safety which results. Beyond the animal care aspects of any veterinary effort is the obvious benefit to efficiency and profitability that the all sizes of animal agricultural operations would receive from increased availability of veterinary service and advice.

(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.

%
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**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:

Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Director, Bureau of Animal Health and

Title: Diagnostic Services

\_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

crashultz@pa.gov

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

717-783-2200

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

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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