

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 – Carry-Over Nomination

Warren, McKean, Forest and Elk 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 State Route 948 and US Route 6, Sheffield, PA 16347

(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)

- Beef Cattle Dairy Cattle Swine Poultry Small Ruminant Other:

May cover

- Beef Cattle Dairy Cattle Swine Poultry Small Ruminant Other:

X 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)

- X Beef Cattle X Dairy Cattle X Swine Poultry Small Ruminant Other:

May cover

- Beef Cattle Dairy Cattle Swine Poultry X 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).

The objective is to increase the number of veterinarians providing food animal veterinary service to an extremely rural 3,145 square mile area which contains 20,044 food animals of different species. The area consists of four counties in northwestern Pennsylvania and contains 124 farming operations with sales of \$40,000 or more. NASS (2007) lists 514 farm owners declaring farming as their primary occupation. Over two-hundred and fifty dairy herds in Warren County had been receiving veterinary care from a two-veterinarian practice in Clymer, New York because there were no food animal veterinarians available from Pennsylvania. The Clymer practice has since discontinued service to the area and what service is available is provided by one sixty year old practitioner. With only two veterinarians in this four county area there is an obvious need for additional veterinary service. The addition of just one more food animal practitioner would decrease the number of farms with over \$40K sales from 62 to 41/veterinarian. The square miles covered per veterinarian would drop from 1,573 to 1,048 and the number of "full time" farms per vet from 257 to 171.

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 primary role of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would be to join a mixed-species rural practice and provide services to food animal producers in the surrounding area. A significant portion of food supply duties would involve dairy practice with lesser amounts of swine, sheep, and small ruminant duties. The companion animal component of mixed practice will be necessary to offset costs associated with travel time and distances between farm premises. In addition to providing comprehensive rural mixed species practice veterinary services the candidate filling this position will be expected to assimilate into the rural community by supporting educational and youth activities and advocate for stewardship and positive relationships between those engaged in agriculture and the expanding non-farm rural community. The candidate would be expected to use her/his position to promote best livestock care and well-being practices, animal disease control and bio-security principles, and responsible veterinary drug use in livestock. Animal health related adult and youth education, mentoring, and career guidance will also benefit the citizens of this remote portion of the Commonwealth. Technical assistance provided in animal health maintenance, public health, and food safety will have a positive influence on rural community development and regional economic growth.

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).

In Warren county over 250 dairy herds were receiving veterinary service from a two-veterinarian practice in Clymer, NY. The practice tried unsuccessfully to attract a new associate in anticipation of the senior partner's retirement. Finally the decision was made to "give" 250 herds to a new graduate moving into Warren County. That individual quickly relocated to Wisconsin. The herds are currently being serviced by one of the two Pennsylvania veterinarians in the area and who is 61 years old. The Clymer practice's remaining partner, still unsuccessful in attracting an associate, is servicing the herds which the practice never relinquished.

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 is a large, sparsely inhabited area with a significant food animal population. With two veterinarians each covering approximately 1,600 square miles (if the territory were divided evenly which it is not) it is apparent that providing adequate veterinary service to these widely scattered operations is virtually impossible. At the present time coverage is inadequate by the admission of the veterinarians residing there. To add a single additional veterinarian is a positive step, but will certainly not alleviate all the problems presented by animal numbers and distances that have to be travelled, especially in light of the fact that the older veterinarian in this area is approaching retirement age. Overextended veterinary practitioners providing food supply veterinary medical services have very little time to interact with clients on matters of production medicine such as nutrition, vaccination programs, bio-security, prudent animal drug use and best practices in animal care and well-being. At current levels of practitioner availability, client service is reactive and as needed rather than proactive and preventive. This takes a serious toll on farm profitability in an area where agriculture is a principal economic driver.

With such limited food supply veterinary medical services small operations with sheep, goats, swine, camelidae, and cervidae are severely underserved. Recent developments in the upper Midwest indicate a significant role of infected wildlife populations in the spread

of bovine tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was diagnosed in the past year in an Ohio Dairy herd. Providing veterinary care to TB susceptible species is a critically important surveillance tool.

(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:

Name: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health and 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  
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046  
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