

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

Clarion, Jefferson, Indiana, Armstrong 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):

Summerville, PA 15864 at intersection of West Penn St. and 2nd Avenue

(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: Camelid __

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 NASS data indicates a food animal population (75,473) consisting primarily of cattle, but with appreciable numbers of hogs and small ruminants. These animals exist on 3,807 farms, 454 of which report incomes of over \$40,000 per year. With eleven mixed animal veterinarians providing service to food animals, this area translates to 6,861 head of livestock on 346 farms spread over 249 square miles for each veterinarian providing service. Increasing veterinarian availability will benefit all sectors of the animal agriculture community allowing greater opportunity for consultative services in nutrition, bio-security, disease prevention and control, responsible animal drug use, pre-harvest food safety, and livestock care and well-being. The outcome should be improved farm profitability and increased community appreciation for biosecurity and disease prevention as well as producer ability to provide a higher quality food product to the larger food processors as well as the niche market retail customers they serve.

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).

This region is best suited to a veterinarian with skills and interests applicable to food animal medicine and surgery, willing to provide equine and/or companion animal veterinary care as well. The presence of rural mixed animal practices strengthens community animal health infrastructure as well as providing employment opportunities to support and technical staff. The role of rural practitioners as community public health/animal health/food safety educators has become more important as this area experiences growth in locally produced and marketed food animal products. The insight of veterinarians in matters of animal welfare, best production practices, pre-harvest food safety and foreign and zoonotic animal disease risks provides critical support to smaller scale sustainable agricultural production. Rural practitioners support community youth activities through mentorship and providing animal health testing for a variety of 4-H and FFA events. Generally speaking, rural veterinary practitioners promote public understanding of agriculture as well as performing food animal disease surveillance through daily practice activities in communities with a majority of inhabitants removed from agriculture and limited in their understanding of livestock production. The rural veterinarian dedicated to this community becomes a role model to guide promising students into careers in animal health, food safety, and public 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).

A Clarion county veterinarian's daughter returned after graduation to help in his practice, but for personal reasons could only stay for one year. The father retired unsuccessful in finding an associate. This practice may cease to exist. A solo practitioner in Jefferson County, who tried for years to hire an associate finally succeeded by financing his nephew's veterinary education. This senior practitioner is close to retirement, unless a third veterinarian can be recruited, the practice will revert to a solo practice. The result from these practice changes may be a net loss of veterinary service in three large practice areas.

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 region has a large number of traditional and "niche market" animal agricultural operations with limited veterinary engagement. Increasing accessibility of veterinary services to this expanding yet marginalized food production sector is an effective means of promoting pre-harvest food safety, biosecurity, and animal disease surveillance. Restructuring veterinary service to improve veterinary expertise to all production sectors increases the likelihood that dangerous transmissible and foreign animal diseases will be promptly detected. Improved knowledge of best practices in sanitation, air quality, nutrition, therapeutics, bio-security, and animal handling as they apply to organic and other non-conventional forms of food animal production will improve the overall viability of animal operations. Local economic recovery benefits as well. VMLRP assistance in this area will allow a motivated young veterinarian to enter rural practice and engage producers in food animal agricultural best practices, an opportunity that is precluded by high educational debt loads.

If the practices in Clarion and Jefferson counties lose practitioners, as projected, the area will be served by 8 mixed animal veterinarians instead of the current eleven, shifting the ratios of animals, farms and square miles per veterinarian to 9,434:1, 476:1 and 342:1 respectively.

The topography of this area contains many mountains and valleys. Fertile farming areas are dispersed broadly and not easily served even by a full time large animal veterinarian. Multiple veterinary practices provide the most sustainable method of assuring adequate animal care, food safety, and disease surveillance.

(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:

Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Name: _____

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 9th 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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