

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 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 Shortage Area Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

Washington-Greene-Fayette-Westmoreland

(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 Castner Ave. and 8th St in Donora, PA, 15033

(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
- Poultry
- 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 a rural 3,248 square mile four-county area in southwestern Pennsylvania which borders metropolitan Pittsburgh on the West, South and East. Despite their proximity to a large urban center, these counties are home to 103,860 food animals of different species. There are currently 20 veterinarians devoting some amount of their time to food animal medicine. The region contains 489 farming operations with sales of \$40,000 or more and 2,195 listing farming as their primary source of income. Despite interfacing with a significant urban/suburban population, this region has a large, vibrant and growing agricultural community. The addition of one food animal practitioner would decrease the ratio of farms with over \$40K sales from 24.5 to 23/veterinarian, the overall number of full-time farms per veterinarian from 110 to 105 and square miles covered per veterinarian from 162 to 155. While this is not a large decrease in ratios, it is a good indication of the demand for veterinary services and strongly suggests that the workload of the veterinarians already in the area would not be negatively impacted by the addition of another food animal practitioner.

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. Duties would involve service to a declining number of dairy farms, but an increasing number of beef herds, small ruminant operations and equine facilities. The companion animal component of the mixed practice will compliment the income from the food animal/equine portion, but could easily be diminished if future growth continues in the food animal segment at the current rate. In addition 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, the expanding non-farm rural community and the rural/suburban interface areas. There is a significant role for veterinarians to play as ambassadors for agriculture in the suburban/rural interface communities. The candidate would be expected to use her/his position to promote best livestock care, well-being practices, animal disease control, bio-security principles, and responsible veterinary drug use in livestock. 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).

A large animal practitioner in Westmoreland county recently purchased an exclusively small animal practice and is indicating her desire to shift her focus away from food animals. Another two-veterinarian practice which currently provides significant food animal service is losing the senior partner to retirement and the junior partner has already indicated that the priority for the practice will be developing the companion animal segment at the expense of food animal service. The trend in the region among the middle-aged and older practitioners is to decrease the hours of practice time devoted to food animal medicine.

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 addition of a young enthusiastic practitioner who is committed to a long term career in food animal medicine and surgery is a positive step in counteracting the overall trend of practices withdrawing large animal service in the areas they serve. A flourishing food animal practice will likely grow and expand, attracting like-minded veterinarians. The establishment of one or possibly several practices which place an emphasis on service to production agriculture species would ensure continuing service to that segment of the region's animal population and encourage expansion of food animal agriculture. Addition of young enthusiastic practitioners who are supportive of food animal agriculture is also essential to fostering good relations between the agricultural and urban/suburban populations which will always exist in these counties.

With increasing numbers of small ruminant farming operations and numbers of animals per herd, additional food animal practitioners will also enhance much-needed surveillance for zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis. 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. Small ruminant agriculture is also associated with many niche foods and food markets. Comprehensive veterinary oversight of these food producing operations significantly contributes to food safety assurance for the consuming public.

(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

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(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.

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