

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

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, and Snyder Counties
(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 Route 522 and Ulsh Gap Road, McClure, PA 17841
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

Must cover (check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: Animal Health and Disease Surveillance

May cover

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

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: _____

(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 above, 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.

%

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 1500 characters).

This area is largely rural and has seen increases in poultry and swine populations in recent years. Top livestock inventory items listed on the 2012 Census of agriculture:

Broilers	5,782,338
Turkeys	483,617
Layers	643,699
Pullets	298,554
Guineas	72,934
Swine	94,059
Cattle and Calves	29,576

Production animal veterinarians currently serving the area total 15 of which 9 are located in a multi-veterinarian mixed practice in Perry County. Including Perry County his practice serves areas to the North in Juniata and Mifflin Counties. According to AVMA data there is only one food supply veterinarian serving Snyder County.

(<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Food-Supply-Veterinary-Medicine-Pennsylvania-maps.aspx>)

Our objective is to increase rural practice service to animal agriculture, especially smaller family farms many of which are operated by the Plain Sect Community.

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 1500 characters or less).

Provide production animal veterinary services to farms within areas that are currently under-served by existing practices as an associate of an existing rural practice or solo practitioner with a minimum food supply component of 30% of total practice time. Activities would include client bio-security education to operators of small commercial poultry flocks plus additional services to bovine, swine and goat herds and some sheep flocks. In addition there are some small camelid fiber producers (llamas and alpacas) with intermittent need for veterinary services. Certification of youth project animals for exhibition is an area of veterinary service need. There have also been weather-related animal emergencies (floods and tornados) in this area in recent years. Animal emergency response education is a need.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

There was a VMLRP awardee serving in a multi-veterinarian practice in Reedsville, Mifflin County in 2011 who has since left the area. This area remains as one of the most food supply veterinarian-deficient regions in the state. The need for rural practitioners devoting at least 30% of their practice time to production animal veterinary medicine is especially high in the more northern portions of this shortage 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 2000 characters or less).

With the threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza in addition to other communicable poultry diseases like ILT, the need for bio-security training to small producers with limited access to veterinary service is critical. In addition, concerns persist over misuse of antimicrobials by individuals attempting to treat food animals without sufficient professional veterinary guidance. As over-the-counter availability of medically important veterinary antimicrobial drugs continues to decline, the production of safe food free of antimicrobial residues and healthy food animals maintained under conditions that meet animal well-being standards demanded by the retail food industry will become increasingly difficult to produce on small family operations. In areas like Juniata and Snyder Counties there are large numbers of these operations. Direct farm sales from small operations will require that animal production methods address food safety and handling standards to reduce the risk of food borne illness. Small family agricultural enterprises are a significant contributor to the local economy and production animal veterinary services are essential in maintaining that infrastructure.

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

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, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.