

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: SC Piedmont - 9 contiguous counties (Abbeville, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda, & Union)
 (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 SC-34 & Spearman Rd, Silverstreet, SC 29145
 (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).

The objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation are to provide food animal veterinary services for cattle and small ruminants in Abbeville, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda, & Union counties at 50% minimum time allocation. This area is home to over 122,000 cows and calves according to 2007 NASS data including the #1 dairy county in the State, Newberry. Each of these counties have fewer than 50,000 rural not in place population according to the 2000 Census. Eight have fewer than 25,000 with six of those at less than 17,000. Using AVMA data adjusted for percent practice on cows & small ruminants, and adjusting based on State Veterinarian's personal knowledge (non-AVMA veterinarians), veterinarians serving cattle and small ruminants in this area total 5.0 equivalent. Using a figure of at least one veterinarian per 20,000 cows, a shortage is evident without even considering the growing small ruminant numbers in the area (mostly meat & dairy goats). The majority of the veterinarians making up the 5.0 are over fifty years of age.

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 activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would include providing dairy and beef production medicine services in the area designated and also providing at least sick animal services and herd health and biosecurity advice to small ruminant producers in the area. It is believed this veterinarian should be able to work at least 30% time on these activities within this rural area. The veterinarian could join a mixed practice in the area or attempt to set up as a solo practitioner. Opportunities for both exist. This veterinarian could supplement with food animal work outside of the area, equine, or companion animal work within the area to obtain enough work to be economically viable. It is not believed possible at this time to be economically viable performing 80% food supply veterinary services within this rural area only. There are veterinarians in the area that would likely be willing to share call and/or offer a new graduate assistance even if this veterinarian was not officially affiliated with their practice.

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 veterinarians that have historically served food animal producers in this area are advancing in age. One new practice opened within the past five years when an experienced veterinarian moved back into the area. This practice needed to hire an associate within three years but found it difficult to recruit. Practice owner reported debt load of new graduates he attempted to recruit was a major stumbling block. Retention of existing associate and certainly any new hires would be very positively impacted by eligibility for VMLRP according to this practitioner. The State Veterinarian agrees with this assessment.

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 area specified for this veterinarian shortage situation contains over 30% of the beef cows and 40% of the dairy cows in the state of SC. The production of a safe, wholesome, local food supply for SC is directly impacted by the ability of the producers in this area to obtain competent and readily available veterinary services. The most recent new graduate to join a practice in this area and offer food supply veterinary services indicates that student loan debt payments are a significant hurdle to overcome if she is to remain in this area. Considering the age of some of the existing practitioners in this area, it is critical for SC to help establish some younger veterinarians in this area so that availability of food supply veterinary services will not be interrupted in the future. In addition, there is a significant void of veterinarians willing to work on small ruminants currently as most food animal practitioners are too busy to take on new clients in this area. A shift in the ethnic demographics is causing a demand for and production of meat goats. There are purebred dairy and beef operations in this area that market their animals' genetics all over the United States and in several foreign countries.

(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:

Name: Boyd H. Parr

Title: State Veterinarian & Director

Organization: Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health

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Telephone Number: (803) 788-2260
(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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