Shortage ID TN163
VMLRP USE ONLY

NIFA

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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: Houston, Stewart, Benton (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): Houston County
(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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle	☐ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine	☐ Swine
☒ Poultry	☐ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____	☐ Other: _____

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).

These counties are in the northern portion of western Tennessee and are part of a rural area that encompasses more than 1,052 square miles. In this area there are beef and dairy cattle, swine, and small ruminant operations. In addition there are multiple poultry complexes scattered throughout the area. State animal health technicians provided current veterinarian numbers. Two food animal veterinarians currently serve these counties. Direct agriculture economic activity in this area accounts for $37.3 million and 1,132 jobs. Of this total, 32.6 percent of the economic activity and 31.5 percent of the jobs are from livestock production. Beef and dairy represent 29.0 percent and 28.0 percent of the direct livestock economic activity and job total, respectively.) (Poultry numbers will increase these numbers significantly.) A veterinarian in this area would promote successful livestock production, insuring the success of these jobs and promoting economic security of the region. In addition, the veterinarian will provide necessary regulation for animal health and safeguard the nation's food supply.

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 characteers or less).

Activities of a food animal veterinarian in Area 2 would include: surveillance for emerging animal diseases, diagnosis and treatment of diseased animals as well as implementing preventative measures for herd health, recommendations of management practices to improve the reproductive health of the herd, and identification of nutritional deficiencies and parasitic problems. This veterinarian would also be expected to provide brucellosis and tuberculosis testing, to write certificates of veterinary inspections, to involve farmers in traceability programs, to provide surveillance for animal disease while working sale barns and comingling facilities, and to share information with the community about animal health programs and regulations. A young veterinarian having received a VMLRP award could promote the profession and the VMLRP to students in 4H and FFA, thereby increasing interest in agricultural pursuits.

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 are efforts to engage young people through local 4H and FFA programs at the county level. At The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, there are postings of positions and offers for externships from rural veterinarians in these counties that the student may explore.

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).

Areas that lack veterinary supervision are areas that can be the first to break with contagious disease that can rapidly affect the state and national food supply. Veterinarians are important to have throughout the state because they are our first line of defense against foreign animal disease and bioterrorism. Now, more than ever, with all the interstate and international travel, pathogens and fomites can easily be passed and diseases can be spread. Intentionally or unintentionally, the result will be the same: the food supply will be compromised and contaminated. The majority of weaned beef calves in Tennessee are comingled and sold in sale barns. From here, these animals are transported to feed yards in Iowa, Texas, and Oklahoma. An exposed calf from a Tennessee sale barn could spread an FAD half way across the United States and expose a vast number of feeders within a short time frame. A trained FAD veterinarian could prevent such an event.

Tennessee anticipates a need of 45 veterinarians involved in mixed animal or farm animal practice, public health, and regulatory medicine over the next five years due to pending retirements and projected veterinary service requirements. This projection and the current deficiency of veterinarians in these counties is a concern for the Tennessee livestock and animal protein production sectors. Livestock production is a vital part of the State's economy. Resources must be applied to attract food animal, public health, and regulatory veterinarians to Tennessee's rural counties to keep livestock production a safe and robust industry.

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: Charles Hatcher, DVM

Title: Tennessee State Veterinarian

Organization: Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Email: charles.hatcher@tn.gov

Telephone Number: 615-837-5120
(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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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