

# 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](http://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: Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise 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): Trammel, Virginia 24237  
(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).

In 2009, the Virginia General Assembly ordered a study of the Large Animal Veterinary Shortage in Virginia, and the study concluded that there was a significant shortage of food supply veterinarians in southwest Virginia.

Objectives for a food supply veterinarian in this designated area:

- Provide production management and emergency food animal veterinary services to the area as either a new practice or an associate in an existing practice.
- Assist local producers in exploring expansion, diversification, and improved production management practices of the livestock production system to sustain livestock production in the area. Assist the Scott County Hair Sheep Association's efforts to develop the hair sheep industry in the area by providing service and education to hair sheep growers.
- Enhance the production of a safe food supply through client education on the judicious use of antibiotics and the observation of appropriate antibiotic withdrawal times.
- Support state/federal animal health officials and the local health department by helping to recognize and manage potential foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases, and zoonotic diseases.
- Serve as a resource for local animal control on animal health and welfare cases.

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).

A veterinarian will provide veterinary services for livestock producers in the designated six county area. It is preferred that the loan repayment recipient join an existing practice or establish a resident practice within the area, but a commitment from a veterinarian practicing near the designated area to provide services in the area has the potential to help incubate a new, resident practice if the recipient can work for a practice in an adjacent area long enough to establish a client base prior to moving into the area. The veterinarian for this area is expected to provide production management and emergency veterinary services for livestock producers in the area. As the Food Safety Modernization Act is implemented, there will be a greater need for local veterinarians to be able to prescribe prescription drugs within a valid client-patient relationship. NASS statistics indicate that there are 61,122 mature cows, 6,689 goats, and 7,600 sheep and lambs in the area with average annual cattle sales at \$35 million. The area livestock populations should support a mixed food supply veterinarian. The southwest Virginia terrain requires a greater practitioner density than other areas because of the longer point to point travel times in the mountains.

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).

An existing Scott County food supply veterinarian is currently recruiting for a new associate and a small animal practice in Buchanan County is preparing to offer food supply veterinary services in this area. It is anticipated that loan support will be necessary in either of these practices to execute their service expansion plans. Lee County was added to the previous designation at the request of an existing practice.

On January 13, 2011, the Wise County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution of Support for a Food Supply Veterinarian.

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).

Failure to recruit a food supply veterinarian will be a threat to the viability of the local livestock industry and local livestock producers will suffer from a lack of veterinary advice on preventative medicine, production management techniques, and veterinary care for livestock. Failure to strategically improve the local livestock production management will have a serious impact on southwest Virginia producers since they lack the economies of a scale that sustain larger producers in other parts of the country. Public health will be at an increased risk without a local food supply veterinarian to assist producers and health departments in recognizing and managing zoonotic and emerging disease and exposure to drug residues. Without adequate food supply veterinary care, local producers and livestock will suffer from a lack of veterinary care, access to livestock prescription drugs, and access to accredited veterinarians to assist with compliance with new federal disease

traceability rules. Mixed animal practitioners that cannot successfully recruit and retain associates may discontinue food animal practice for economic and time management reasons. Without additional veterinary manpower, food supply livestock will continue to be underserved in this locality.

(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.

30%

**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: Richard L. Wilkes, D.V.M.

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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