

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: Alleghany, Bath, and Highland 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): Monterey, Virginia 24465 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [X] 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: \_\_\_\_\_

[X] 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)

- [X] Beef Cattle [ ] Dairy Cattle [ ] Swine [ ] Poultry [X] Small Ruminant [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

May cover

- [ ] Beef Cattle [X] Dairy Cattle [X] Swine [X] 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).

Objectives for a food supply veterinarian in this designated area:

- Establish a new rural, at least 30% food supply, veterinary practice or join an existing practice and provide food animal services through that practice.
- Provide production management and emergency food animal veterinary services to the area as either a new practice or as increased capacity in an existing practice.
- Assist local producers in exploring expansion and diversification of the livestock production systems to sustain livestock production in the area.
- 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 officers on animal health and welfare cases.
- Work with local producers and the local extension service to develop livestock marketing and harvesting services through the Alleghany Highlands Agriculture Center.

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 three county area. Since there are no food animal practices in the designated area, it is preferred that the loan repayment recipient establish a resident practice within the area or join an existing mixed animal practice in the area. However, an agreement from a surrounding practice to commit an employed veterinarian to provide services in the area has the potential of helping 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.

NASS statistics indicate that there are 7,000 mature beef cows, 154 goats, and 4,660 sheep in the area. Pocahontas County, West Virginia, which is adjacent to the designated area, has 15,511 cattle and 2,641 sheep.

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).

In 1987, a local Ruritan club assisted a new veterinarian with materials and labor to build a clinic. The agricultural extension agent, the Highland-Bath Cattle Association, Inc., and the Highland County Farm Bureau have written to express the need for a food supply veterinarian in the area since the veterinarian providing most food animal services (65% large animal) left in 2007 for a teaching career. The Highland Center will provide a room for an office for \$150/monthly for a one-year start-up period. Several civic clubs and individuals have expressed a willingness to assist with individual or family housing.

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. Livestock producers in the area will suffer from a lack of veterinary services to help them increase their efficiency through professional advice on preventative medicine and production management techniques. Failure to strategically improve the local livestock production enterprise management will have a serious impact on southwest Virginia producers since they lack the economies of scale that sustain larger producers in other parts of the country. Many local stores are typically a source of antibiotics and treatment advice especially in areas that are underserved by a food supply veterinarian. Availability of a veterinarian that has a client-patient relationship with the producers will reduce the improper use of

antibiotics that contribute to antibiotic residues in the food supply and treatment failures. The 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 diseases.

This area receives veterinary services from two local, mixed-predominantly companion animal practices; one mixed out-of-state practice (30 minutes away); and eight practices (approximately 1.25-2.00 hours away) from the surrounding areas.

(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

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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.