

# 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: Bland, Smyth, and Tazewell 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): Tazewell, Virginia 24651  
(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 2009, the Virginia General Assembly ordered a study of the Large Animal Veterinary Shortage in Virginia. The study was led by the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and included participants from industry groups, state government, food animal veterinarians, and economic development agencies. 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:

- Join an existing practice and add a food animal veterinary services capacity to the practice or establish a new rural predominantly food animal practice in the area. Provide production management and emergency veterinary services in the area.
- Assist local producers in diversifying or expanding their livestock production to sustain livestock production in the area.
- 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.
- 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.
- Serve as a resource for local animal control on livestock and companion 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 food supply veterinary services to the designated three county areas. 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. However, a commitment from a surrounding practice for an employed veterinarian to provide service in the area has the potential of helping to 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 show that there are 32,100 mature beef cows, 3,200 milking cows, 10,300 sheep, and 3,834 goats in the area. The area livestock populations would support multiple mixed food supply veterinarians in this area. There are two food animal predominant and one mixed animal veterinarian in the designated area. The mixed animal practitioner is beyond normal retirement age. 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).

The state animal health official is not aware of any local government or industry attempts to recruit a veterinarian for this shortage situation. Multiple local Virginia Farm Bureau organizations in the area have indicated that they believe there is a need for additional food supply veterinary services. One mixed practice veterinarian in the area is recruiting an associate to join an existing mixed veterinary practice in Tazewell County. The veterinarian reports that students who would consider moving to the area are unable to accept available jobs because of the educational loan burden.

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. Local livestock producers will suffer from a lack of veterinary services for livestock care and professional advice on preventative medicine and production management techniques. A 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. The Virginia Cooperative Extension is expected to become a smaller resource for producers because of budget issues. A lack in expert advice will leave producers to their own devices in managing livestock health issues. Availability of a veterinarian that has client-patient relationships with the producers will reduce the improper use of antibiotics that contribute to antibiotic residues in the food supply. Public health will be at a

greater risk without a local food supply veterinarian to assist local produces and health departments to recognize and manage zoonotic and emerging diseases in the area.

There are 98,400 mature beef cows, 7,200 milking cows, 13,200 sheep, and 9,046 goats in adjacent counties. These counties are served by 10 large animal predominant veterinarians and 4 mixed practice veterinarians. A significant part of the practice time for some of the large animal veterinarians is dedicated to equine work and to work in North Carolina. The services provided by practices in adjacent localities do not meet the needs of the designated area.

(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.

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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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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