

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: Moderate 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)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- 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.

30 %

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).

There is no food supply veterinarian within this designated area. The counties included in this food supply veterinarian shortage designation are within the Appalachian region. The Center for Animal Health in Appalachia prepared the 2015 State of Animal Health Report (in Appalachia) and that report concluded that 75% of the counties in the total Appalachian region had a veterinary deficiency which included all practice types. The report further concluded that there is a large animal veterinarian (including equine) deficiency of at least one full-time equivalent in two of the three counties in this deficiency area designation. According to the USDA 2012 Ag Census, the animal inventories for the counties in the designated area are 32,018 cattle and 6,046 sheep. There are several commercial poultry houses within the designated area which are part of the very large Shenandoah Valley Poultry industry. These are mountainous counties with limited highway access which will require a higher than usual veterinarian to livestock inventory ratio.

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 characters or less).

A veterinarian will reside within and provide veterinary services for livestock producers in the designated area. The loan repayment recipient will establish a food supply or mixed animal practice in the designated area. The veterinarian for this area is expected to provide production management and emergency veterinary services for food animal producers that will require some night and weekend availability. The veterinarian will help producers and animal supply distributors to understand and comply with the requirements of the Veterinary Feed Directive that will be enacted in 2017. The veterinarian will assist other outreach agencies to educate livestock producers on antibiotic residue avoidance, steps to minimize the development of antibiotic resistance. The successful applicant will provide diagnostic assistance for non-integrated poultry owners which will provide surveillance that will also protect the commercial poultry in the area and the Shenandoah Valley. There is a small, inspected, livestock processing plant in the area, and the selected veterinarian should work with producers and the local livestock community to utilize the facility as fully as possible to facilitate the marketing of local livestock. The veterinarian will serve as a mentor for area young farmers, college students and veterinary students. A successful applicant should provide volunteer service and leadership for local agricultural, youth and civic organizations.

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).

The area and local the local cooperative extension service requested a food supply veterinarian designation for the area several years ago. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents have worked with the local governments to encourage them to develop additional support to attract a new food supply veterinarian. The Highland-Bath Cattle Association and the Highland Sheep and Wool Producers Association have written to the state veterinarian to report a serious need for veterinary service. The Highland County Extension Livestock agent has reported that there is room available in the Highland Business Center. The local Ruritan Club provided material and labor to assist with building a clinic for the previous 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 2000 characters 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 advice on preventative medicine, production management techniques, and veterinary care for livestock. More than one-half of Virginia farms are less than 100 acres and these smaller scale operations normally need more veterinary assistance than larger farms. Animal welfare standards may not be met because of lack of access to adequate veterinary care. Without adequate access to food supply veterinary care, local producers will not be able to establish the Veterinary Client Patient Relationships (VCPR) needed to obtain veterinary feed directives or prescriptions for livestock prescription drugs. A VCPR is necessary for producers to obtain certificates of veterinary inspection to comply with the federal Animal Disease Traceability Regulations and the veterinary deficiency will limit some access to interstate markets. Without convenient access to veterinary service, livestock producers in the area may be at a competitive disadvantage when compared to producers with convenient veterinary access. 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.

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.