

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: Patrick County
(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): Patrick County
(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.

50 %

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).

The cattlemen in this designated area are committed to recruiting additional veterinary service to meet the needs of the cattle producers in Patrick County. The cattlemen feel that they are experiencing unnecessary cattle losses because of the extended wait time for emergency service. Local producers report that there is one resident mixed animal practice that provides service to food supply producers. Additional services are obtained from outside of the county and those practices are not readily available for urgent livestock care. A Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Services evaluation of large animal veterinary shortages in Virginia concluded that there was a significant shortage of food supply and mixed animal veterinarians in some areas in central Virginia. Many of the Patrick County livestock producers have some off-farm employment and smaller operations which make scheduling veterinary services and the types of services needed differ significantly from operations where farming is the primary occupation of the operator. According to the USDA 2012 Ag Census, the animal inventories for the county are 22,112 cattle, 2,317 sheep and goats, 358 pigs and 781 equine with cattle sales that generate more than \$3.5 million in farm gate sales. In the 2015 State of Animal Health in Appalachia report, the Center for Animal Health in Appalachia concluded that there was a need for more than one livestock veterinary full time equivalent in the county.

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 county. The loan repayment recipient may join an existing practice or establish a new practice within the county. The veterinarian for this area is expected to provide production management and emergency veterinary services for livestock producers in the area. The veterinarian will help producers and animal supply distributors to understand and to comply with the requirements of the Veterinary Feed Directive that will be enacted in 2017. The veterinarian will assist with outreach to educate livestock producers on proper antibiotic therapy and antibiotic residue avoidance. The veterinarian will serve as a mentor for area young farmers, agriculture college students and veterinary students. A successful applicant should provide support and leadership for the local agricultural 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).

Previous efforts to attract new food supply veterinarians have been limited to the efforts of existing practices to bring in new associate veterinarians. This is the first time that local producers have requested a food supply veterinarian deficiency designation for the county. The Patrick County Cattlemen Association has offered to promote a new food supply veterinarian in the county and to encourage its members to help the new practitioner with adequate work to become established and profitable in the county.

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 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 Patrick County producers since many producers do not have access to enough land to significantly expand their operations. Public health will be at an increased risk without an additional local food supply veterinarian to assist producers and the local health department in recognizing and managing zoonotic and emerging disease. Without adequate food supply veterinary care, local producers and livestock will suffer losses from inadequate access to livestock prescription drugs, and access to accredited veterinarians to assist with compliance with new federal animal disease traceability rules. Insufficient availability of food supply veterinarians make it impossible for some producers to be in compliance with statutory animal care requirements and will make it difficult for producers to meet some of the reasonable public expectations for animal welfare. Mixed animal practitioners that cannot successfully recruit and retain associates may discontinue food animal practice for economic and time management reasons. Producers may fail to comply with welfare requirements for adequate care if access to food supply veterinary service does not increase. Without additional veterinary manpower, food supply livestock will continue to be under served in this locality.

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.