

# 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 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**

South Magic Valley, Idaho – Twin Falls, Cassia and Minidoka Counties

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

\_\_\_\_\_ (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):

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 South Magic Valley Region consists of a variety of rural communities with strong ties to the agricultural community. It is imperative that the veterinary needs of dairies, cow-calf operations, and other agricultural animals be met with qualified veterinary services. The objectives of a large animal veterinarian in this area are to serve the variety of animals and operations that exist. This area is home to over 450,000 head of beef and dairy cattle.

With a variety of clientele ranging from the 10,000 cow dairy herd to the "backyard" sheep flock of six, veterinarians must be willing and able to adapt to the needs of a unique and varied clientele. Unfortunately, time has shown that fewer veterinarians are willing to accept these challenges unique to rural America. It is important that veterinary services are available to all facets of producers, not targeted towards specific species or population groups.

Rural Idaho practices with this type of diversity are finding it harder to attract new veterinarians with salaries that can meet the financial needs faced by recent graduates. The ability to attract and retain a "new generation" of veterinarians in this area is reflected by the shortage currently faced. Although an award was accepted in this shortage area last year, because of the large number of food animals present, this area is still experiencing a shortage of food animal veterinarians.

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).

While an important aspect of the veterinarian's life is built around one's day-to-day practice, it is equally important in the Magic Valley to be involved in one's community. During the "business" part of the day, a rural mixed animal practitioner in the Magic Valley can be found providing a variety of veterinary services expected with a rural lifestyle. One may be pregnancy checking a cow one minute, providing birthing assistance to a ewe the next, and examining a sick alpaca the next, all the while diligently keeping watch for epidemiological veterinary health concerns.

The variety of the rural veterinary lifestyle does not end with the "work day". Many veterinarians serve on local community boards, are involved with civic groups, and are leaders in their communities. Activity and event opportunities, both veterinary and non-veterinary, surround the rural veterinary lifestyle in the Magic Valley. While the veterinarian is expected to provide traditional services, often the veterinarian is involved in a variety of community endeavors.

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).

- Advertisements in professional magazines such as JAVMA and Bovine Practitioner
- Advertisements in State VMA newsletter and website
- Postings on job boards at veterinary meetings
- AVMA matching program
- Networking within veterinary community, allied (pharmaceutical) and animal industry personnel
- Contacting veterinary schools
- Offering externships to veterinary students
- Mentoring veterinary students

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).

The following are areas of potential concern / risks in the Magic Valley given the agricultural base of the community.

- Control of regulated diseases such as Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Trichomoniasis. The necessity of vigilant surveillance and active prevention of such diseases is inherently obvious. Given the recent reappearance of these diseases in Idaho; the need to protect from zoonotic disease and avert the economically devastating consequences of such diseases must be of priority.

(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.

Box containing a percentage sign (%)

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

X [ ] By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

X [ ] 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: Bill Barton, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
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