

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) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Nomination #3 - An approx. rectangular area between the cities of Vicksburg and Jackson, approximately 30 miles wide, extending approximately 50 miles north of I-55. This area will include Sharkey, Issaquena, Yazoo, northern Warren county, western Madison and Hinds counties and is bordered on the western side by the Mississippi River.

(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): Bovina, Mississippi in northern Warren county

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [ ] Moderate Priority [x] High Priority [ ] Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

[x] 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)

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

May cover

- [ ] Beef Cattle [x] Dairy Cattle [x] Swine [x] Poultry [x] 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 primary objective of a veterinarian serving this area is to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services. There are over 30,000 cattle/calves in the area, several laying houses (NASS 2011 estimates) and only 2 practicing large animal veterinarians to cover this tall area between two of Mississippi's major cities. Many additional cattle are brought to the area during grazing months to graze on the levees of the Mississippi River. **This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 80% of their time in food animal practice.** It is designated as Type I shortage area since the veterinarian will provide mainly food animal services, with most companion animals being taken to larger areas such as Jackson or Vicksburg.

The veterinarian is expected to be based within 20 miles of Bovina, MS. Accessibility to other larger communities such as Jackson (40 mi) and Vicksburg (15 mi) is available. These delta counties provide an economic base for many agriculture-related businesses. Therefore, another objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contribute to the local economy.

(184 words)

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).

Routine veterinary care would include herd health consultations (including vaccination and parasite control planning, pregnancy examinations and breeding soundness exams), regulatory services in accordance with state and federal health programs, issuance of interstate health papers and animal identification, and emergency veterinary services. They will also be expected to demonstrate and educate others on proper animal handling and promote animal welfare according to scientifically-based industry standards.

As one of the few large-animal predominant areas in the state, this person would also serve as a mentor to future and current veterinary students. The veterinarian would be expected to work with Extension and 4-H livestock personnel and provide guidance and education in the areas of animal and public health. This veterinarian will serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, as well as serving as a front line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging and exotic animal diseases. Furthermore, a veterinarian in this area would be able to provide guidance in areas of disaster preparedness and agrosecurity for both large and small animal veterinary clients. Being a part of the Mississippi delta region, this area has seen several extreme flooding and tornado events over the past few years.

(199 words)

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).

There are currently only two practicing large animal veterinarians in this delta area who stay busy providing veterinary services. They have found their practice area expanding immensely over the past several years. One is within a few years of retirement and only one new veterinarian has been recruited to the area in the past 10 years. Several recent graduates have considered the area for prospective employment and CVM externship records show that this area is most visited by students wishing for large animal experience. Livestock producers have expressed a need for veterinarians to continue to provide services in the area.

(100 words)

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).

Agriculture is Mississippi's largest industry, with agricultural receipts over \$4.9 bil. There are approximately 1.2 mil food animals in Mississippi, with only 100 large animal veterinarians to service them (NASS, AVMA estimates). This fertile grazing area has large cow-calf and stocker populations, and veterinary services are critical for the economic stability of the area. Over 450 cow-calf and stocker operators are located here, shipping thousands of calves a week interstate, requiring regulatory services. Veterinary services available in the area are limited and expansion of these already-large coverage areas is not practically or economically feasible.

Risks of a veterinarian not being secured or retained include: increased livestock morbidity and mortality, improper animal treatments, improper animal handling and increased threats to animal welfare, and failure to recognize foreign and emerging

animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or chemicals are used improperly or when improper drug withdraws are followed. Environmental health can also be threatened with the lack of product or waste disposal guidance. The lack of a food animal veterinary professional in this region may threaten the entire US and international communities by failure to respond to potential animal and public health concerns.

This area is in the Mississippi delta, a region traditionally looked upon as educationally and economically deprived. Given the many prospective and current students who travel to this area for food animal experience, lack of veterinary support can potentially negatively impact student recruitment, mentoring and educational opportunities.

(249 words)

(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

- 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: James A. Watson
Title: State Veterinarian
Organization: Mississippi Board of Animal Health
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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.