

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: SC Coastal - 10 contiguous counties (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton & Jasper)

(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):

Intersection of Sniders Hwy & I-95 (Nearest town Walterboro, SC 29448)

(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)

[] 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: _____

X 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)

- X Beef Cattle X Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry X Small Ruminant [] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle [] Dairy Cattle X Swine X 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 objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation are to provide food animal services for cattle, small ruminants, & swine in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton & Jasper Counties at 30% minimum time allocation. There are cow-calf operations, some feeder calves and a recent growth in dairy in two of the counties. 2007 NASS data indicate over 34,000 cattle & calves in this 10 county area in addition to over 8,871 hogs & pigs. Similar to other areas in SC, small ruminant (meat goats) numbers are increasing in the area. Using AVMA data and adjusting based on State Veterinarian's personal knowledge of services in the area and percent of work on food animals, veterinarians for food animals in the area total 1.3 equivalents and 1.0 of this total is now over 70 years old. SC licensed veterinarians list has no veterinarians of any type for Allendale county. Each of ten counties has rural not in place populations of fewer than 50,000 (8 fewer than 27,000) according to the 2000 Census. Using a figure of at least one veterinarian per 20,000 cows, a shortage is evident without even considering the age of the 1.0 vet.

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 meeting this shortage situation would provide veterinary services to the cow-calf, feeder calf & dairy producers in this area, helping them design herd health programs for their operations as well as biosecurity procedures for their operations. In addition this veterinarian will provide similar services for small ruminant producers that are a rapidly growing sector in this area. There may be opportunity to work with small scale hog farmers as well. Initially 30% minimum time devoted to food supply veterinary medicine is expected for this area since producers in the area have not been accustomed to having such services available. This position would have the opportunity to provide equine and companion animal veterinary services to supplement income. One county, Allendale, has no veterinarians of any kind so this position could fill a need and further supplement income filling some of that void as well. Opportunity also exists to serve other food animal producers in more populated counties adjoining this area such as Orangeburg and Aiken with significant food animal operations.

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 have not been extensive recruitment activities in the past that state veterinarian is aware of. High student loan debt would make it difficult for a new graduate to earn sufficient income in this area to live on working on food animals and make loan payments as well. The need is demonstrated continually by calls to the State Veterinarian's office and diagnostic lab with requests for veterinary assistance for food animals. We have difficulty coming up with names for those requests of veterinarians who would consider coming to a farm even for an emergency.

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 area specified for this veterinarian shortage situation has significant populations of beef cows, dairy cows, commercial and backyard swine, and small ruminants with only 1.3 full time equivalent veterinarians providing services for them. The production of a safe, wholesome, local food supply for this area in SC is directly impacted by the ability of the producers there to obtain competent and readily available veterinary services. A recent new graduate to start a practice in this area wants to offer food supply veterinary services; however, he indicates that student loan debt payments are a significant hurdle to overcome if he is to continue and expand the amount for food animal services he provides. The area is poised to continue its growth in cattle numbers, possibly becoming a significant area for forage-fed beef production. Availability of food supply veterinary services is a critical requirement for this growth to be able to occur. Food supply veterinarians are a critical link in emerging and foreign animal disease prevention, detection and eradication. Both state and regional interests will be served by improving the level of food supply veterinarians in this area with benefits accruing to animal, human, and environmental health. Encouraging a veterinarian already in practice in this area to offer at least 30% food animal services or recruiting a new veterinarian to do the same is the goal for this shortage situation.

(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 symbol (%).

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: Boyd H. Parr
Title: State Veterinarian & Director
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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.