

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: Western Washington – Snohomish 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): (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 [ ] Small Ruminant [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

May cover

- [ ] Beef Cattle [ ] Dairy Cattle [x] Swine [x] Poultry [x] 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).

There is a severe need of a food animal veterinarian to support Snohomish County. This metro area has over 1,670 farms; the average farm size is 46 acres and the area is home to over 36,889 cattle and 468,043 poultry\*. This county is experiencing an increasing small-acreage ruminant animal and poultry farming movement. The objective of a food animal veterinarian in this area is to serve the variety of animals and operations that exist from large animal clientele to the small acreage and hobby farm movement; 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 the food animal challenges unique to this area. It is important that veterinary services are available to all facets of producers, not targeted towards specific species or population groups, and particularly in this region to monitor the health of animals and production practices near the metro interface is critical where risk factors for emergence of known and newly emerging pathogens are high. A veterinarian must commit at least 30 percent of their time to providing food animal veterinary services in this area.

\*2007 Census of Agriculture

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).

The activities of a veterinarian in this area would be to provide veterinary services for food animal clients. Activities would include routine fertility exams and pregnancy diagnosis, bull soundness examinations, regulatory brucellosis vaccination, setting up vaccination protocols, emergency treatment of individual animals (sickness, dystocia), client education on preventive animal health planning, routine certified veterinary inspections and other routine diagnostics to support the region. In addition, education of clients who are new owners of food producing and hobby animals will be critical to protecting their own, their animals' and the public's health.

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).

It will be difficult to adequately support a salary for a food animal veterinarian who has a significant (+\$100,000) student loan debt. As numerous AVMA and other studies have concluded, the majority of students have a much greater interest in small animal veterinary private practice than in food animal veterinary medicine. New veterinarians are drawn to small animal practices in urban areas with significantly higher salary offerings. A food animal veterinarian providing services to other veterinary sectors in this area is a means of achieving a financially viable practice.

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 Snohomish County region of Washington includes a mix of traditional livestock and poultry production, emerging small acreage and backyard hobby farms owned and operated by novices and organic producers, and has a demographic which includes urban, suburban, rural and tourist populations. Arguably it is a region with enhanced risk of disease emergence and public health challenges, yet is severely underserved by the food animal veterinary community. Areas of concern and risks, particularly given the mixed agricultural base of the community, include traditional regulated diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, avian influenza and trichomoniasis (recently re-emergent in Washington State), and introduction of exotic and foreign animal diseases. The necessity of vigilant surveillance and active prevention of such diseases is inherently obvious, and the need to protect against and test for zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis and to avert the economically devastating consequences of

such diseases must be of priority. A practitioner in the area would significantly enhance on farm presence to incorporate and provide Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) surveillance such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza in their daily work. In addition, this metro community takes great pride in supplementing their own food source. Many residents of Western Washington raise small numbers of cattle, poultry, other avian species and ruminants. Providing adequate food animal veterinary care for these animals is critical to the health of the metro Washington family and the public.

(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.

%

**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: Leonard Eldridge, DVM

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.