

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form 2015 Resubmission

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: Preston & Tucker Counties in West Virginia
(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): U S Route 50, Aurora, WV 26245
(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 southern portion of Preston County is essentially without large-animal veterinary service. All of our veterinarians are retiring or work for contract service agencies that do not do routine business with non-dairy farmers. There is presently no local veterinary service available to the beef, goat, sheep, horse and other food and fiber animal farmers in this region. Local small-animal veterinarians are generally unwilling or unable to provide farm services for routine or emergency veterinary care. The two closest production animal veterinary services are in Keyser WV and Southern Pennsylvania.

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).

We still have no available services for doing health checks and writing interstate transfer papers for livestock in this region. We have no licensed veterinarian available to do TB checks or to perform certified blood sample services for Brucellosis, Bluetongue, BVD or any other veterinarian-certified medical procedure. A veterinarian for this area would conceivably be performing all of these services as well as providing companion animal care.

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).

- Local citizens initiated a program advertising the desirable characteristics of this region and direct it to students in the nation's veterinary colleges. They have interviewed one student from Ohio State University (Tim Knotts will graduate this spring and would be a superb candidate for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). He has expressed his desire to apply for the VMLRP in Preston County when the applications are called.)
- An advertisement indicating the availability of a rural production-animal practice in this area has been sent to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association for publication in the journal. The Veterinary Resource Advisory Panel is bearing the expense of this advertisement.
- The community has established the Dr. Joyce Colbert Veterinary Scholarship Fund under the management of the Tucker Community Foundation to encourage and support education in rural veterinary practice. The value of the fund stands currently at \$20,200. They awarded two \$1000 scholarships to students in 2008 to study veterinary medicine.
- They have proposed the development of a Mobile State Veterinary Service that would provide emergency veterinary care to farmers in areas where commercial veterinary services are unavailable.
- They proposed the development of a regional large-animal veterinary clinic appropriately designed to meet the health and sanitation needs of the state and staffed by veterinary services on an on-call or as-needed basis.
- They proposed the institutionalization of a tuition relief program in West Virginia that would provide tuition forgiveness for veterinarians that agreed to work in the state for a period of time.

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).

USDA can help ensure there is a first line of defense against animal diseases across the United States by placing qualified veterinarians in areas where there is a critical need. This program will help reduce veterinary shortages, especially in the area of food animal medicine, which will reduce stress on producers and improve the health of the livestock industry. The production animal industry in West Virginia, as anywhere, is only as strong as its weakest link. By providing uniformity of veterinary health coverage across all regions of the state, the safety of food animal production is incrementally increased.

(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: Jewell Plumley, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: West Virginia 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.