NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for 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 position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: AR115

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Cleburne, Independence, Izard, and Jackson Counties, AR
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Intersection of Hwy 167 and Hwy 69; Batesville, AR 72501
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice
Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:
- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:
- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
Employer: _____ Position Title:_____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.
- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting 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).

According to the USDA Census, Arkansas is one of the leading states in animal agricultural production. The Northeast region of Arkansas is the second leading region in cattle production with approximately 373,000 head of cattle produced in 2010. Cleburne, Independence, Izard, and Jackson counties are in this region and produced approximately 137,000 head of cattle in 2010. According to data from the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Board and USDA, there is no practicing Food Animal Veterinarian in these counties. Implementation of the VMLRP in this region is vital to the recruitment and retention of a Food Animal Veterinarian, the continued success of food animal production, the maintenance of economic stability, and to ensure that the resources required to protect animal and public health are available in this region.

A minimum 30 percent-time(12 hr/wk based on a 40 hr/wk FTE) commitment will be required of the successful applicant, with preference being given to applicants who are willing to exceed this minimum requirement. The objectives for a Veterinarian meeting this shortage situation include providing food animal Veterinary services, recruitment of new Veterinary graduates to practice food animal medicine, and establishing a permanent food animal Veterinarian in this region.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The activities of a Veterinarian meeting this shortage situation will include providing food animal Veterinary services to Cleburne, Independence, Izard, and Jackson counties at a minimum. These activities will include basic herd health maintenance (i.e. vaccinations, deworming, production medicine, etc…), farm visits in response to sick or diseased food animals, Veterinary surgical and medical treatment as needed, Veterinary consultation, providing Veterinary oversight in the use of pharmaceuticals in food animals, issuing health certificates, developing a clientele to enable a Food Animal Veterinary Practice to thrive in this area over the long term, and providing Veterinary support to the surrounding community that will facilitate the protection of animal health and public health through the practice of modern, scientifically sound Veterinary Medicine.

A Veterinarian performing the services listed above, in addition to other Veterinary services for food animals, will greatly enhance Arkansas' food animal production and improve the health of the animals in this geographic location. The improved food animal health will result in increased food safety, improved public health, and economic growth for producers in this area.

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 no recruitment or retention efforts specifically for this shortage area. However, the state of Arkansas has 12 contract slots with Veterinary Colleges in order to facilitate the education of Arkansas Veterinarians. In addition, there is a proposed bill in the 2011 legislative session that would create a Veterinary Loan Repayment Program for Arkansas residents who graduate from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine and practice food animal medicine in Arkansas for 5 years. There is a second proposed bill that would create a study to address the shortage of Large Animal Veterinarians in Arkansas.

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).

According to the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Board, the number of Veterinarians in private practice dedicated primarily to food animal medicine has decreased over the past 10 years. There were 20 Veterinarians dedicated to providing food animal Veterinary services in 2001. In 2010 there were approximately 9 private practice Veterinarians in the state of Arkansas dedicated primarily to food animal medicine. This disturbing trend will continue unless an incentive is provided to recruit Veterinarians to practice food animal medicine in Arkansas. This incentive must be significant enough to offset the financial advantages associated with alternative areas of Veterinary Medicine.

While the number of practicing food animal Veterinarians has decreased across the state, the amount of food animal production in Cleburne, Independence, Izard, and Jackson counties combined increased by approximately 6,400 head in 2010. The production statistics for 2010 equate to approximately 137,000 head of cattle in these counties with no local Food Animal Veterinarian. This represents a disturbing trend of decreased availability of Veterinary services in this region. All indications are that this trend will continue. The increase in production and lack of Veterinary services presents a significant and increasing gap in the protection of animal health and human health in this region. If this VMLRP nomination is not secured, this gap will continue to grow, which will increase the risk to animal health, public health, environmental health, and the production of a safe and wholesome food supply in the Northeast region of Arkansas.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: George Pat Badley, DVM

Title: AR State Veterinarian

Organization: Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission

Email: pbadley@alpc.ar.gov

Telephone Number: (501)907-2433
(Area code required)

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, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.