

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

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.

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: State of California (With California Department of Food and Agriculture or the University of California)

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: 1220 N Street Sacramento, Ca. 95814 or One Shields Ave. University of California-Davis, Davis, Ca. 95616

(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: California Department of Food and Agriculture (and UC Davis) Position Title: Veterinary Poultry Specialist

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Poultry Health Specialist

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).

California has a significant poultry industry as well as hundreds of thousands of backyard poultry enthusiasts. A new trend in urban areas of the state is the production of eggs for one's own need. Further, California has a significant exotic bird importation industry. The cash receipts from commercial poultry production in California totals about \$1.1 billion. There are about 19 million layers, 235 million broilers and 16 million turkeys in the state. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) needs a poultry health veterinarian to design and implement surveillance programs, education programs and response schemes. The current global concern over Avian Influenza as well as H1N1, is a constant reminder of the need for concerted efforts. Additionally the Exotic Newcastle outbreak in 2002-2003 is a clear reminder of how backyard poultry concerns can affect the commercial industry. This disease response cost approximately \$155 million, required quarantining 18,344 premises in the state and resulted in the depopulation of 3,166,041 birds.

Because this unmet veterinary shortage concerns the state deeply, a combined position between CDFA and the University of California (U.C.) will be considered with the intention of improving the ability to recruit a qualified applicant.

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 poultry specialist works with poultry producers, academia, state and federal veterinarians and the public to identify disease risks and establish disease prevention, surveillance and response activities. Because of the large number of non-commercial poultry and exotic bird enthusiasts in California, another key task is development of outreach material making them aware of their role in disease prevention and transmission. The poultry specialist also interacts with State and federal wild bird specialists to develop guidance intended to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases from wild birds to domestic poultry. When there is an introduction of a poultry disease that significantly threatens public health or poultry health, the specialist acts as a key epidemiologist in the disease investigation. Finally, the poultry specialist ensures that poultry disease surveillance in California is optimized.

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).

State salaries are significantly below federal or private veterinarian salaries (documentation available), and because there is a very limited number of veterinarians specializing in poultry, CDFA has been unable to fill the currently open poultry specialist position for the past three years. CDFA solicits candidates at trade conventions, through professional magazines and directly from California's two veterinary schools. CDFA will fund advanced training. Because CDFA has been unable to recruit a poultry specialist, CDFA has depended on the U.C.'s poultry experts to meet the most pressing needs. Unfortunately, U.C. just lost their last poultry veterinarian, making the situation that much more dire.

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).

Commercial (\$1.1 billion cash receipts) and hobby (100's of thousands with unknown total income) poultry producers are at greatest risk if the State is unable to attract a veterinarian specializing in poultry disease prevention, detection and response. The State's poultry farmers and ranchers are particularly vulnerable because of the large human population with hobby birds in close proximity to ranches and because of the extensive human and product movement through California's ports, some of which are the largest in the nation. Human health is also threatened if the State cannot attract a poultry health specialist because it will be difficult to detect and control diseases like highly pathogenic avian influenza and salmonella enteritidis without regulatory veterinary expertise. California commercial poultry producers have particularly communicated concerns about the unknown health status or poultry health awareness within the vast numbers of backyard poultry operations that surround them. The Exotic Newcastle event of 2002-2003 in Southern California illustrated this intricate web of hobby birds, commercial operations and people. The occasional introduction of low-pathogenic strains of avian influenza in commercial flocks also illustrates known risk. These incursions are reminders of California's vulnerability to highly pathogenic strains of avian influenza, which would decimate poultry health and threaten human health. New diseases like pandemic H1N1, which was recently detected in two poultry flocks within the state, also demonstrate the risk to poultry health in the absence of CDFA expertise. California is the number one U.S. state for foreign visitors; hence there is risk of

entry for animal diseases via travelers. Additionally, because the state sits in the Pacific flyway, poultry are at risk to the variety of diseases that can be carried and transmitted by migrating waterfowl.

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. [LEAVE BLANK – NOT FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2010]

N/A

