NIFA **NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

Veterinary Shortage Id Code:FL102

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: Service Area 1: Practice area to include portions of Okeechobee, Hendry, Glades, and Highlands Counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Intersection of US Hwy 27 with SR 70; Lake Placid, FL 33852
(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).

This shortage area is in the heart of Florida's major cow-calf industry, with an estimated 412,000 cattle and 246,000 cows. It includes very large ranches, 28 large dairies, and many smaller farms with beef cattle and small ruminants. There are 10 actively practicing veterinarians (30% or more of their time in food animal practice) working within this area. These veterinarians also provide veterinary services to a large number of horses and to companion animals.

This service or practice area, with a radius of 50-60 miles, extends over portions of four counties. It is primarily rural (Lake Placid has a population of less than 2,000 people), but there are population centers and residential areas scattered among the ranches and farms. This practice area has been designated as a Type II shortage area, as equine and possibly companion animal work may be required to ensure practice viability. To be eligible for program participation, a veterinarian must commit to a minimum of fifty percent (50%) or greater food animal practice (20 hours/week).

Objectives in addressing this shortage area include direct diagnosis and treatment, consultations on disease prevention and control, and herd health work on both small and large food animal operations.

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).

Herd Health /Preventative Medicine for large beef cattle herds:

- Vaccinations and herd health programs
- Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
    - Florida ships approximately 700,000 calves annually
    - This region is the highest density of cow-calf operations in the state
- Reproductive management
    - Breeding soundness examinations
    - Pregnancy determination

Dairy herds – Most dairies in this area are >1000 head of milking animals. Veterinarians involved with these dairies are working with the management and are less involved in individual animal care. They are important in the development of management plans for each class of animals that includes health and welfare of the individuals and the herd as a whole. This industry is proactive in meeting consumer desires for a healthy, wholesome product.

- Consultation and herd health
    - Reproductive management
    - Vaccination programs
    - Prescriptions (Withdrawal issues, approved product concerns)

- Nutrition management and problem solving

Small producers and small ruminant producers – This is a growing component of food animal practice in this area. The large ethnic population in this and the adjacent Miami areas consume a large amount of small ruminant product; therefore, the industry is exploding.

- All aspects of herd health and general management
- Emergency 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).

Past Efforts to Recruit/Retain:

While past efforts to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians are not well documented, efforts have been made to hire and retain food animal veterinarians in this shortage area. Surveys of producers and veterinarians have indicated that problems of insufficient income, more hours worked, and the physical hardships of food animal practices have made it more difficult to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians. Recruitment efforts will be important in the future as 50% (5/10) of food animal veterinarians in this area have more than 15 years of practice experience.

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).

Risk of not securing or retaining positions:

- Negative Impact on Animal and Farm/Ranch Health and Welfare

  - Many farms or ranches, particularly smaller operations, will not have access to veterinary services

  - Individual animals and herds will lack preventative veterinary care, and diagnostic services and treatment resulting in increased animal morbidity and mortality

  - Increased production and economic losses to producers

  - Lack of expertise and consultation to promote overall health and welfare through improved vaccinations, nutrition, and reproductive programs

- Negative Impact on Community/State/Federal Food Animal Industries

  - Undiagnosed and untreated disease transmission within herds and between adjacent herds or through exposure in marketing channels

  - Lack of first line of defense in recognizing and reporting suspected foreign or emerging diseases of significant concern to state and federal officials for emergency investigation and response (Florida is at very high risk of foreign animal disease introduction because of

its geographic location, climate, and high volume of international trade)

- Lack of immediate on-farm action to limit disease spread and initiate regulatory action can have enormous negative economic impact on producer, community, state and national industry for highly contagious reportable diseases

- Reduction in overall animal health and welfare with increased public concerns relative to humane treatment

- Negative Impact on Food Safety/Public Health/Environment

  - Lack of guidance and direction on selection and usage of vaccines and drugs to enhance efficacy and food safety

  - Lack of guidance and directions on issues such as drug withdrawal times, carcass disposal, and zoonotic disease risks that may impact public health

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]

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Thomas J. Holt

Title: State Veterinarian, Director

Organization: Division of Animal Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Email: holtt@doacs.state.fl.us

Telephone Number: (850) 410-0900
(Area code required)

Thomas J. Holt

Dr. Thomas J. Holt, State Veterinarian, Director

March 4, 2010
Date

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.