

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

Veterinary Shortage Id Code: KY105

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

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center, 1490 Bull Lea Rd, Lexington, KY 40511
(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: State Diagnostic Laboratory Position Title: Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostician

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Diagnostic Veterinary Medicine

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).

The national framework to safeguard animal health is extremely important to the U.S. economy, public health, and our nation's food supply. To strengthen this framework, we must increase our investment in the animal disease diagnostic system at the state level to reduce disease and transmission; enhance public and animal health; ensure a secure, economical, and viable food supply; and improve interstate and international trade. Also we must provide adequate capacity and capability for early detection of newly emergent, accidental, or intentionally introduced diseases. Finally, we must provide the earliest possible detection of a Foreign Animal Disease. By filling this veterinary laboratory diagnostician shortage situation, we will improve our ability to evaluate, validate, and implement new and existing scientific tools and technologies that can significantly enhance prevention, detection, and diagnosis of animal disease. We will also develop scientific data on disease transmission and the effectiveness of control programs then share this information with government, industry, and global trade partners. Ultimately skilled diagnosticians mean efficiency in routine, increased early detection of agents, and provide surge capacity in the event of disease outbreaks, whether newly arising, accidental, or intentionally introduced.

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 primary activity of this veterinary laboratory diagnostician is to perform standardized assays and pathological examinations for diagnosis of livestock and poultry pathogens and toxins. This position is also important for the development and validation of new tools for detection, diagnosis, and risk analysis in the event of disease outbreaks in Kentucky. This position will also emphasize a broad diagnostic outlook for the herd or flock rather than disease in only one or a few animals, in order to increase the likelihood of early recognition of new or emerging diseases. Integrative animal health research programs, in which veterinary and medical diagnosticians can work as collaborators, could be established to address prevention and detection of zoonotic animal disease including study of pathogenesis and transmission. This could lead to long term research agendas in collaboration with other institutions and laboratories, providing a forum for regular exchange of information.

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).

The workforce on the front lines of animal care is not adequately educated and trained to deal with animal disease issues, and there is a shortage of veterinarians in the workforce for animal disease prevention, detection, and diagnosis. Too few veterinary students are choosing to specialize in biomedical science, microbiology or pathology, making past efforts at recruiting very difficult. Retention is also a concern due to the relatively low salaries offered to laboratory diagnosticians coupled with the debt accrued during veterinary school. Trying to recruit and retain has been a struggle for approximately 10-15 years with few prospects for improvement.

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 risks of animal disease must be dealt with not only in terms of protecting individual species of animals from specific pathogens, but also in a broader context that includes anticipating the emergence and spread of disease on local and global scales and recognizing the relationships of animal disease to human health and the environment. Inherent in this broadening scope and scale is the reality of emerging infectious diseases, new zoonoses, food safety problems, possible FADs and the unfortunate reality that the intentional introduction of animal diseases could result in potentially catastrophic consequences. The confluence of people, animals, and animal products

within today's dynamic international context is unprecedented, and we continue to face microbial threats such as *E. coli* O157:H7 with increasing frequency. Animal disease prevention and control is crucial to improving public health on a global scale. In addition, in an era of growing concern about the threat of terrorism, the potential impact of the intentional use of animal disease agents to cause morbidity and mortality, as well as economic damage, is enormous. In general, Kentucky lacks surge capacity and is not prepared for disease agents and toxins on a large scale. Kentucky animal agriculture is subject to decimation without an adequate supply of veterinary diagnosticians. We recognize the need for local expertise to accelerate the detection and diagnosis of animal disease, especially those newly arising, accidental, or intentionally introduced.

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: Robert C.Stout, DVM
Title: State Veterinarian
Organization: Kentucky Department of Agriculture
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Telephone Number: 502-564-3956
(Area code required)

Robert C. Stout,DVM

Type Name

March 5, 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.