

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.

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

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Fayetteville, AR 72701
(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 Publications, Arkansas is one of the leading states in the nation in regards to animal agricultural production and sales. The Northwest region of Arkansas is the leading cattle production region in the state with a total of 786,000 head produced in 2009. Benton, Washington, Franklin, and Madison counties are located in this region and produced a total of 315,000 head of cattle in 2009. According to the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Board, there is not a practicing Veterinarian dedicated to Food Animal Medicine in any of these counties.

Implementation of the VMLRP in this region is vital to the continued success of food animal production in this area and will ensure that the Veterinary resources required to protect animal and public health are available. 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 with an interest in food animal practice, and establishing a permanent food animal Veterinarian in this area.

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 Washington, Franklin, and Madison 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 the 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 have been no recruitment/retention efforts for the veterinary shortage situation identified above.

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 to food animal medicine has decreased significantly over the past 10 years. There were 20 Veterinarians dedicated to providing food animal Veterinary services in 2001. In 2005 that number had decreased to 17. In 2009 the number of Veterinarians dedicated to food animal medicine had decreased even further to 14 in the entire state. This disturbing trend will continue unless an incentive is provided for Arkansas Veterinarians to practice food animal medicine. This incentive must be

significant enough to offset the financial advantages associated with alternate areas of Veterinary Medicine. The state of Arkansas does not have the resources necessary to develop an incentive program that would meet these requirements.

While the number of practicing food animal Veterinarians has decreased, the amount of food animal production in the Northwest region of the state has continued to thrive. All indications are that this trend will continue. This continued production and decrease in the availability of Veterinary services presents a significant gap in the protection of animal health, human health, environmental health, and the production of a safe and wholesome food supply in this region and the nation as a whole. If this VMLRP nomination is not secured, this gap will continue to increase, which will increase the risk to animal health, public health, and the production of a safe and wholesome food supply.

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:

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