

NIFA 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.

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.

State of Delaware

Location of Veterinary Shortage: _____
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: State capitol (Dover, DE 19901)

(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 of Delaware Position Title: Regulatory
 _____ veterinarian
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Poultry, Livestock, and other animal health regulatory
 activities _____

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 State of Delaware has a severe shortage of veterinarians in public practice. We no longer have a Public Health Veterinarian, and there is no wildlife veterinarian. Aside from the State Animal Health Official (SAHO), there is one other State veterinarian in Delaware. Because our entire state has just 1.20 food animal veterinarians in practice, we are often called upon to respond to outbreaks of disease in food animals, or to perform routine necropsies because nobody else in the state is available to get it done within a realistic time frame. This drastically detracts from the amount of time we are able to devote to public health issues and important regulatory responsibilities. The veterinarian must commit at least 70% time (28 hours) towards public practice to satisfactorily fill the nominated situation. The objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would be required to perform most of the duties described in this document.

The incumbent would spend time defending animal producers and educating citizens who have a very limited understanding of animal agriculture. Nearly every complaint regarding animals comes through our office, because as veterinarians we are considered subject matter experts in everything from backyard chickens to rabid wildlife, to reasons for die-offs in Canada geese. In general, we are in need of someone on the State side who can primarily speak for agriculture but also help to fill the gaps with regard to public health issues (zoonoses), wildlife issues (die-offs of avian species; interface between wildlife and domestic animals), and supporting the animal producers of the state by improving regulations and fighting for continued funding and devotion of resources to the agricultural community. Given the wide range of regulatory activities and demands placed upon the existing workforce, we have no doubt that there is a great need for an additional public service veterinarian in our State.

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).

Duties of this person could be within the Department of Agriculture (livestock and poultry health, animal emergency management), Department of Public Health (zoonotic and vector borne diseases) or with the Department of Natural Resources (fish and wildlife disease surveillance and management). Ideally, one position could distribute their efforts as needed to all three agencies. The specific priorities of the selected veterinarian would be determined by the agency employing the veterinarian and the position title of the veterinarian. Employment would be based in the Dover area (state Capitol).

The state-employed veterinarian who fills this shortage situation would be involved with a great variety of issues, as described in the preceding section. The greatest deficit lies on the agricultural side, as the Department of Agriculture is responsible for controlling the spread of infectious diseases throughout the State with the assistance of just two animal health inspectors to handle all complaints and disease responses in addition to their regular scheduled duties. With the decrease in the overall percentage of folks involved in agriculture, it is becoming more common that veterinarians are called in as experts on cases of suspected cruelty or to determine humane methods of raising livestock and poultry. This is a developing area that requires close, attentive oversight in order to stay ahead of activist groups like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

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).

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.

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