

# 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: Nomination # 2: A geographic area with a 40-50 mile radius that includes all or part of the following Kentucky counties of Bath, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Rowan, and Wolfe.

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

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Elliott County, Kentucky

Intersection Hwy 7 at KY Hwy 32; Sandy Hook, KY 41171

(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).

The objectives for a veterinarian would be to spend at least 30% of their time providing food animal veterinary services in an area of the State with very limited veterinary services. Five of the 14 counties do not have a veterinarian in any type of practice. These fourteen counties are in the northeastern mountainous section of Kentucky. Some counties have fewer than 1000 head and only two have over 25,000 cattle. Twenty-one veterinarians indicate mixed animal practice in this area with approximately 137,000 cattle, however some of these practices may only do companion animals and no food animals. Small ruminants are becoming a viable source of income on the farms in this area that vary greatly by topography. A few of the counties are well suited to cattle, but the shortage of practitioners and the distance needed to travel makes available service difficult. Supporting a food animal veterinarian in this area will improve the food animal veterinary care, provide necessary regulatory functions for producers and enhance the entire animal agriculture economy of the area. This area also supports three livestock markets that need the services of veterinarians.

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).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation will be dedicating at least 30% of their work time to providing routine veterinary care to cattle or small ruminants. This care will include preventive herd health consultation, parasitology, reproductive work, diagnostic work on sick or debilitated animals and emergency services. This person will also provide regulatory services to food animal producers including brucellosis and tuberculosis testing, certifying and accrediting herds for brucellosis and tuberculosis respectively, writing of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, utilizing official animal identification for good traceability, brucellosis calf hood vaccination and will promote the adherence to food safety standards. This person will be the first line of defense for the recognition of a foreign animal disease and will respond appropriately to federal and state agencies. A food animal practitioner in this area will be available to work with local producer groups and youth organizations to share vital information and training that will improve, protect and help sustain the agricultural economy of Kentucky and the nation.

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).

Other scholarship and loan repayment programs that are much smaller in scale are being offered in the State to encourage recent graduates to consider food animal practice. These are supported by livestock producer groups and veterinary associations. Information shared with this Office indicates that new graduates more often join a multi-person practice instead of a solo practice. The information received from struggling veterinarians is that the debt load prevents them from being able to start a practice or serve in an area of need, where the salaries for recent graduates are lower than in other parts of the State.

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).

Kentucky producers provide significant feeder cattle, dairy replacement heifers, and dairy cattle that are vital to the food supply of the nation. The sheep and goat industry is also expanding significantly in Kentucky providing market animals. Veterinarians provide the expertise needed to maintain a healthy herd or flock. The shortage of food animal veterinarians available for herd health visits/consultations, surgery and emergency after hour visits is putting the Kentucky producer's herd at risk. Producers may use veterinary pharmaceuticals inappropriately, at the wrong dosage, not understand drug withdrawal times and precautions putting a risky product into the food chain. As food safety issues are a major component of the ability to export animals to other states and to other countries the viability of livestock industries depends on the expertise of professionally trained food animal practitioners.

Current food animal practitioners have had to limit their coverage area or their working hours to maintain dependable service to the producers they serve. A veterinarian often cannot afford to travel fifty to one hundred miles to provide service at a reasonable fee because it makes his practice economically unsound. Well over half of the practices in Kentucky that offer food animal service do have a haul-in facility which reduces the producer's expense and the time a veterinarian spends in travel. If the current field of food animal practitioners is not supported by additional food animal practitioners joining their practices the areas they serve will have no service in the future.

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:

Name: Robert C. Stout, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Kentucky Department of Agriculture

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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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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