



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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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: Somerset and Worcester Counties in Maryland
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: In the vicinity of Princess Anne (21853), Pocomoke City (21851) or Snow Hill (21863) MD
(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).

Placing a food animal veterinarian in this region of Maryland will provide animal producers with an enhanced local source of expertise pertaining to diseases and management of food animal species. Most food animal producers in this region have been without a local food animal veterinarian for many years. In addition to providing routine preventive medicine visits, tending to sick animals, and responding to emergency calls, a veterinarian with food animal expertise would serve the producers by acting as an expert consultant with regard to nutrition, animal welfare and public perception of routine agricultural practices, the relationship between food animals and public health, antibiotic resistance, and being proactive as opposed to defensive when dealing with issues surrounding animal husbandry. The anticipated time commitment for food animal work is 65%.

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 veterinarian filling the shortage will spend a minimum of 26 hours a week engaged in food animal practice. The practice area includes small ruminants, beef cattle and non commercial poultry. It is anticipated that the veterinarian filling the shortage would spend the remaining proportion of their professional effort in a combination of food animal, equine or companion animal practice. This region of Maryland is one of the densest commercial broiler producing areas in the world. The Maryland counties in this proposed designated area have a total of 359 food animal premises with a total of 4 food animal veterinarians in residence. The calculated proportion of food animal veterinarians /food animal premises is 1.1 per 100. The Maryland average is 2.0 per 100 premises. Based on actual practice patterns observed, the proposed shortage area includes significant areas of northern Accomack County, VA and southeastern Sussex County, DE. It is anticipated that a veterinarian filling this critical shortage area would provide service in one or the other of these out of state counties.

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).

No formal recruiting effort has been undertaken by this agency or any other State entity. Empirical information strongly suggests that while the number of noncommercial food animal premises has declined in the past 20 years, the number of veterinary- hours of food animal practice available have fallen even faster. Producers complain about the difficulty in getting veterinary service; practitioners complain about the difficulty in hiring and retaining new associates.

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).

This is the second most underserved multi county food animal practice area in Maryland. The greatest risk is that a foreign animal disease will enter the State and go undetected or unreported because of the fact that many producers do not have easy access to a local veterinarian. Maryland like all states relies heavily on the valuable partnership between the veterinarian and the producer to quickly identify and report suspected foreign animal diseases and other animal disease outbreaks. Because of known patterns of food animal movement and commerce, adjacent states within the proposed practice area are vulnerable to contagious diseases that occur in Maryland and the reverse.

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.

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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.