

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.

Tioga, Potter, Clinton, Lycoming counties

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

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

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position:

Intersection of Little Pine Creek Rd and PA route 287, English Center, PA 17771

(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).

NASS data (2007) shows a total farm population of 3,137 in this four county 4,332 square mile area. These counties are serviced by ten mixed animal practice veterinarians devoting more than 30% of practice time to food supply veterinary medicine. The region is rural with a substantial dairy industry and a widely dispersed small ruminant population. Of the 3,137 farms, 608 report income indicative of moderate-to-large-scale commercial activity. The smaller niche market and "hobby" farms tend to request non-routine/emergency veterinary service which is better suited to rural mixed animal practices with income support from companion animal practice, the 30% minimum food animal practice category. Niche market/non commercial food animal populations outside the purview of experienced food supply practitioners present a risk to animal health in commercial operations because they receive limited veterinary information and advice related to nutrition, animal husbandry, biosecurity, disease detection and treatment, proper drug use and correct food harvest and handling techniques. Availability of veterinary services tends to increase veterinarian contact with these operations and enhances information transfer related to the previously mentioned topics. At the same time, increased availability of veterinary information and services enhances the efficiency and profitability of the larger operations in the 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 veterinarian recruited to this area will spend at least 30% of their time in food animal practice and the balance with companion animals. Beyond medical and surgical services, this individual will be involved with client outreach and producer education related to production medicine, animal drug residue avoidance, bio-security principles, disease control and animal health monitoring, and livestock well-being. This aspect of practice activity is projected to expand with the planned reduction of Penn State University's Cooperative Extension activities over the next several years. Small farm food supply veterinary medical outreach will enhance animal disease surveillance in a segment of the industry that previously had minimal exposure to professional veterinary services with potential animal health, food safety, and public health benefits. Serving a mixed practice clientele will provide this veterinarian the opportunity to educate non-farm companion animal clients on the critical role of production agriculture in society. Involvement in community organizations and schools provides avenues for youth mentoring, education of the general public and specific producer group meetings.

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 two main practices serving the northern counties in this region each consist of solo practitioners who are over 60 years of age. Neither practitioner has been successful in hiring or retaining associates and while neither plan to leave practice in 2012, retirement is imminent for both. Potter, Clinton and Lycoming counties have no resident food animal practitioners. Veterinary services are provided by practices in adjoining counties which are travelling significant distances to provide that service. The mountain and valley topography adds greatly to travel time and increases difficulty in providing veterinary service across this broad region.

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 very large and rural part of northern Pennsylvania has a growing demand for food animal veterinary service from a diverse producer base. Two active livestock auctions provide ample opportunity for producers to purchase animals from many other states and widely disperse animals sold there. With many remotely located herds and flocks, a dangerous transmissible livestock disease and its potential for transfer to resident wildlife species could exist in this area, undetected, for a significant period of time. Producer awareness of proper biosecurity practices and disease recognition in such regions becomes a crucial factor in maintaining the health and safety of the state's commercial food animal population. This situation is made even more critical through the loss of cooperative extension field personnel which further reduces the number of trained observers in the region.

Traditional veterinary services will always be essential, but increasingly there is a need for practitioners with the skills to also provide client education on animal husbandry, disease recognition and prevention, bio-security, responsible animal drug use, production economics, and pre-harvest food safety. Overextended food animal practitioners limited by time and distance, cannot devote adequate efforts to the client education and producer group outreach necessary to insure a healthy food animal population and the associated regional biosecurity and food safety which results. Beyond the animal care aspects of any veterinary effort is the obvious benefit to efficiency and profitability that the all sizes of animal agricultural operations would receive from increased availability of veterinary service and advice.

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: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health and
Diagnostic Services

Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Email: crashultz@pa.gov

Telephone Number: (717) 771-2852 Extension 203
(Area code required)

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.