

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: Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Wise Counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Trammel, VA 24237
(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 2009 Virginia General Assembly ordered a study of the Large Animal Veterinary Shortage in Virginia, and the study concluded that there was a significant shortage of food supply veterinarians in southwest Virginia.

Objectives for a food supply veterinarian in this designated area:

- **Provide production management and emergency food animal veterinary services to the area as either a new practice or as a new capacity in an existing practice.**
- **Assist local producers to explore expansion and diversification of the livestock production systems to sustain livestock production in the area. An adjacent county has a haired sheep initiative, and it is logical to feel there may room for increased lamb and meat goat production in the area.**
- **Enhance the production of a safe food supply through client education on the judicious use of antibiotics and the observation of appropriate antibiotic withdrawal times.**
- **Support state/federal animal health officials and the local health department by helping to recognize and manage potential foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases, and zoonotic diseases.**
- **Serve as a resource for local Animal Control on animal health and welfare cases.**

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 will provide veterinary service for livestock producers in the designated four county area. Since there are no food animal practices in the designated area, it would be preferred for the loan repayment recipient to establish a resident practice within the area, but a commitment from a surrounding practice to commit an employed veterinarian to providing service in the area has the potential of helping to incubate a new, resident practice if the recipient can work for a practice in an adjacent area long enough to establish a client base prior to moving into the area. The veterinarian for this area is expected to provide production management and emergency veterinary services for livestock producers in the area. NASS statistics indicate that there are 17,200 mature beef cows, 3,290 goats, and 2,800 sheep in the area. The area livestock populations should support a mixed food supply veterinarian. The Southwest Virginia terrain requires a greater practitioner density than other areas because of the longer point to point travel times in the mountains.

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 Buchanan County administrators have been aggressively trying to recruit a veterinarian to establish a practice in that county. The county has offered incentives that include space in the county industrial park and a contract to assist the local animal control department with large animal and companion animal welfare cases and professional services for the local animal pound. This type of contract could assist someone interested in establishing a mixed food animal practice by providing some guaranteed income while the practice is established.

On January 13, 2011 the Wise County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution of Support for a Food Supply Veterinarian.

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).

Failure to recruit a food supply veterinarian will be a threat to the local livestock industry viability. Livestock producers in the area will suffer from a lack of veterinary services to help them to increase their efficiency through professional advice on preventative medicine and production management techniques. A failure to strategically improve the local livestock production enterprise management will have a serious impact on southwest Virginia producers since they lack the economies of scale that sustain larger producers in other parts of the country. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service is expected to become a smaller resource for producers because of budget issues. Many local stores are typically a source of antibiotics and treatment advice especially in areas that are underserved by a food supply veterinarian. Availability of a veterinarian that has a client-patient relationship with the producer will reduce the improper use of antibiotics that contribute to antibiotic residues in the food supply and treatment failures. The public health will be at an increased risk without a local food supply veterinarian to assist producers and health departments to recognize and manage zoonotic and emerging diseases.

There are 48,500 mature beef cows, 5,559 milking cows, 18,100 sheep and 10,600 goats in adjacent counties. These counties are served by six food animal predominant veterinarians, and three mixed veterinary practices. One practitioner is beyond

normal retirement age. Without additional veterinary manpower, the food supply livestock will continue to be underserved in this locality.

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.

Not required at this time according to instructions.

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.

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