

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: Alleghany, Bath, and Highland Counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Monterey, VA 24465
(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).

Objectives for a food supply veterinarian in this designated area:

- Establish a new rural, at least 30% food supply veterinary practice or join an existing practice and provide food animal services through that practice.
- Provide production management and emergency food animal veterinary services to the area as either a new practice or as increased 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.
- 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.
- Work with local producers and the local extension service to develop livestock marketing and harvesting services through the Alleghany Highlands Agriculture Center.

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 three 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 or to join an existing mixed animal practice in the area; but an agreement 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 7,000 mature beef cows, 154 goats, and 4,660 sheep in the area. Pocahontas County, WV, which is adjacent to the designated area, has 15,511 cattle and 2,641 sheep.

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).

In 1987, a local Ruritan club assisted a new veterinarian with materials and labor to build a clinic. The agricultural extension agent, the Highland-Bath Cattle Association, Inc., and the Highland County Farm Bureau have written to express the need for a food supply veterinarian in the area since the veterinarian providing most food animal service (65% large animal) left in 2007 for a teaching career. The Highland Center will provide a room for an office for \$150/month for a one-year start-up period. Several civic clubs and individuals have expressed a willingness to assist with individual or family housing.

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. 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.

This area receives veterinary services from two local, mixed-predominantly companion animal practices; one mixed out-of-state practice (30 minutes away); and eight practices (approximately 1.25-2 hours away) from the surrounding areas.

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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