NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046

Veterinary Shortage Id Code:KY102

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

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 50 mile radius that includes all or part of the following Kentucky counties Adair, Boyle, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Garrard, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne.
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Hwy US 27 and State Road 70, Eubank, KY 42567
(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 this veterinarian would be to provide relief to the practitioner shortage that exists in this area that includes five counties in the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics District Three and five counties in District Five. District Three has the highest number of cattle in the state, followed by District Five. Several counties in this area have substantial sheep and goat production also. Kentucky is a rural state with significant cow-calf operations that provide feeder calves for the nation's food supply. Food animal expertise is vital to sustain and protect the quality of animals and products going into the food supply. Fifty-five percent of the veterinary practices in Kentucky that dedicate some of their practice hours to food animal medicine have only one veterinarian providing food animal services even though they have tried recruiting for new veterinarians. A 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. Each of the four service areas nominated has some overlap with each other and this is expected when the Kentucky Agricultural District's map for cattle is evaluated with the areas.

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 response 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).

Individual veterinarians in private practice in this area compete for the few veterinarians who graduate from veterinary school with an interest in food animal practice. The recent trend indicates that multi-person practices have a better opportunity to hire a veterinarian than a solo practitioner possibly because of the sharing of work load and other benefits a larger practice may provide.

The Kentucky Farm Bureau has created a committee to study the food animal veterinary shortage situation in the state and is encouraging various producer groups to participate in funding incentive programs for food animal veterinarians.

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. [LEAVE BLANK – NOT FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2010]

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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Telephone Number: 502-564-3956
(Area code required)

Robert C. Stout, DVM
Type Name

March 5, 2010
Date

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.