

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.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: CA112

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: **Eastern Riverside County, Western La Paz County, Arizona, Northern Imperial County- 50 to 60 mile radius around Blythe California**
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position:

Blythe, California

(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) **30%**

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).

To provide service to cattle and sheep producers in this region that has the service of a single mixed practice veterinarian. The area is large geographically and difficult to serve by one veterinarian whose time is divided between companion animals and food animals. There are small communities that need companion animal services; however, the youth in the area require veterinary service for 4-H and FFA projects. Ranchers in the vast area also require veterinary service. There are several small beef cattle operations here in Blythe plus both Blythe and Parker AZ have large 4-H and FFA programs that are mainly swine and sheep (250-350 individual projects yearly). Upwards of 50,000 sheep are pastured and lambd out here in the winter months, being trucked down from Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. The closest Food Animal Service would have to come from Brawley, CA 90 miles to the southwest, Wickenburg Arizona 100 miles away or Indio 110 miles to the west.

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).

Large animal emergency service, as well as routine preventive care and health inspections for animal movements, is required for this underserved area. Services can range from dealing with difficult dystocias, to emergency surgeries, to developing vaccination programs and even pregnancy confirmations.

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 solo practitioner in Blythe has been in practice there since 1989. He has advertised in the AVMA Journal for years, sent flyers to veterinary school senior classes, and had advertisements up at the Western States Conference. In that time he has only had three persons even call. Money is not the issue as we never got that far in the discussion.

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).

Without service for 4-H and FFA members, they will miss out on valuable lessons regarding animal health and food safety. Local producers will have to go without appropriate care for livestock, including emergency services requiring a veterinarian's care. Lack of adequate veterinary service increases the risk of diseased and/or improperly treated animals (antibiotic drug residues), entering the food chain. Additionally, it increases the risk of loss of production and animals due to undetected or misdiagnosed diseases. Finally, this location is not far from the border with Mexico, hence not having an accredited veterinarian providing additional surveillance for foreign animal diseases is a significant risk to the state.

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.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Annette Whiteford

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: California Department of Food and Agriculture

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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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