

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: CA113

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.

State of California-Diagnostic Laboratory System

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

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

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position:

University of California, Davis; California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS). Davis is the central facility, with laboratories in Turlock, Tulare and San Bernardino as well. The individual could be assigned to assist one or more of the locations.

(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: UC Davis, CAHFS

Position Title: Veterinary
Diagnostician

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Pathology, Microbiology, Virology, or Toxicology
are potential disciplines _____

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 key objective of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation is to recognize, investigate and diagnose diseases and toxins of concern in the agricultural animal population of the state of California. While the position is not located in an insular area, the CAHFS laboratory receives animal submissions from insular areas and is responsible for providing disease surveillance for the state of California. The veterinary diagnostician is the "front line" for this surveillance effort.

The goal is to meet the needs of CAHFS by hiring a veterinary diagnostician. In doing so the laboratory has to be proactive in recruitment and competitive in compensation of qualified individuals. The program in NIFA would help us attract qualified individuals.

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 veterinary diagnostician is needed to perform identify disease pathogenesis or agents, provide laboratory confirmation and communicate with practitioners, producers and regulatory officials in order to recognize, control and prevent disease. The diagnostician's extensive knowledge of their field is a crucial part of California's animal health surveillance system.

CAHFS has an extensive network of connections to practitioners and producers in all regions of the state through its existing client base. Many of these clients represent agricultural animal populations located in rural areas. The veterinary diagnostician will serve these clients on a daily basis by participating in disease investigations for their herds and flocks. California is an important Cattle and poultry producing state, and it is critical that it has a competent diagnostic laboratory system staffed with highly skilled pathologists who can recognize and respond to disease concerns in a timely manner.

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).

Although similar observations can be made for other classifications, in 2005, a diagnostic veterinary pathologist resigned her position with CAHFS. Recruitment was initiated in 2005 but a qualified candidate did not apply until 2007, and they subsequently declined. The recruitment effort was reopened, and a qualified candidate was finally identified and started in January, 2009. During the 4 year vacancy period, 2 qualified temporary pathologists filled this position, neither applied for the permanent job; they left CAHFS for the private sector. Salaries for veterinarians at the University average lower than the private sector, making recruitment and retention extremely challenging.

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).

A shortage in veterinary pathologists at the California Animal Health and Food Safety puts the state of California's animal disease surveillance system at risk. A delayed or missed diagnosis of a foreign animal disease, such as foot and mouth disease, is estimated to cost between \$1 million to \$3 million *per hour* in animal losses and disease control/eradication effort¹s. This figure does not include related losses such as decreased trade and lost wages.

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

¹ Personal communication, Dr. Mark Thurmond, 3-23-06.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Annette Whiteford

Title: State Veterinarian

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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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