

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: CA114

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.

Imperial County

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

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

Center of Service Area or

Brawley, CA

Location of Position:

(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).

Imperial County occupies 4,175 square miles of the State and it borders on Nevada, Arizona and the country of Mexico. The county is home to most of California's feed yards (373,866 head in 2009) and in the winter it is a common location for sheep from across the west to be wintered. The feeder lamb industry in 2009 accounted for 140,000 head. In addition, the County also has some dairy, goats and range cattle production as well. In total animal agriculture was a 343 million dollar business for the County (2009 statistics). The goal is to use the VMLRP program to help attract much needed large animal veterinary services.

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).

The primary industry a veterinarian would serve is the feedlot industry, a great opportunity to practice population medicine as they must be on top of diseases, nutritional deficiencies and other factors that can contribute to poor weight gains and outright illness. They also can provide services typical to the dairy industry including pregnancy verification. Because California still requires vaccination for Brucellosis there is a need for an accredited veterinarian to vaccinate local dairy and beef heifers. Given the location of the County and significant degree of animal movements into the area from other states, a veterinarian's skill is needed for disease surveillance.

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 large animal practitioner needs continue in the county yet the number of permanent food animal veterinarians serving the County has gone from 2-3 ten years ago to none now. There is one small animal practitioner that is willing to make some large animals calls; otherwise service comes from a distance, specifically from Arizona. This is a relatively remote area of the State without the large city attractions and additionally is one of the hottest areas in the nation. However, the livestock industry here provides great opportunities for a practitioner.

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).

Maintaining adequate animal health vigilance in this County is extremely important to the entire state. There is a true need for continued veterinary service here because: 1) feeder cattle come in from across the United States and Mexico, 2) sheep from across the western United States may be wintered in this area, and 3) because it is on the border the flow of wildlife across the border makes for an increased risk for entry and harboring of contagious animal diseases. Without adequate veterinary service in Imperial County the State of California is at risk.

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

Email: awhiteford@cdfa.ca.gov

Telephone Number: _____
916-654-0881 _____
(Area code required)

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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