

# 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: MS111**

#### 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 #1 – Wilkinson, Franklin, and Amite counties, Mississippi  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: Intersection of state routes 24/48 and 33 in Centreville, Mississippi (Wilkinson Co.)  
(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 primary objective of a veterinarian serving this area is to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services. The southwest region has the highest dairy cattle population in the state, as well as a large number of beef cattle and small ruminants. According to the 2010 NASS county estimates, almost 28,000 cattle and calves are located in this region, with only one large animal veterinary practice servicing the eastern edge (AVMA Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates).

Another objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contribute to the local economy. While this is a primarily rural area, accessibility to other larger communities such as Baton Rouge is available. Between 5.7-9.4% of the workforce in these counties is primarily agriculture in nature (U.S. Census Bureau). **This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 50% of their time in food animal practice.** It is designated as Type II shortage area since the veterinarian will likely need to provide some equine and companion animal services to ensure business viability. The veterinarian is expected to be based within 50 miles of Centerville, a central location with good highway access to the region.

(200 words)

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).

Routine veterinary care would include herd health consultations (including vaccination and parasite control planning, pregnancy examinations and breeding soundness exams), regulatory services in accordance with state and federal health programs, issuance of interstate health papers and animal identification, and emergency veterinary services. He or she should also be prepared to work with the local auction barn and livestock exhibitions held in the region. This veterinarian would be expected to collaborate with Extension and 4-H livestock personnel and provide guidance and education in the areas of animal health and public health, and serve as a model for future food animal veterinarians. The veterinarian will also be expected to demonstrate and educate others on proper animal handling and promote animal welfare according to scientifically-based industry standards.

This veterinarian will not only serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, but will also serve as a front line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging and exotic animal diseases. Furthermore, since this area of the state is prone to tropical storms and flooding, a veterinarian in this area would be able to provide guidance in areas of disaster preparedness and agrosecurity for both large and small animal veterinary clients.

(199 words)

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).

Current practicing veterinarians have had a difficult time in hiring and retaining associates due to the rural locale and economic realities of the region. Livestock producers have also expressed a need for additional veterinarians to help provide services in the area. One veterinarian was hired into an existing practice in 2009, yet this area is still underserved and will require additional veterinary services for essential livestock care. CVM externship records show that local practice has hosted students on externships to help them gain experience. However, there are few incentives for graduates to join or establish practices in this area.

(99 words)

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).

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, with agricultural receipts close to \$4.9 bil. Poultry and eggs lead in total agricultural sales, with cattle and calves being the 4<sup>th</sup> leading commodity. There are approximately 1.2 mil food animals in the state, with only 100 large animal veterinarians to service them (NASS, AVMA estimates). This area of

the state has large dairy and stocker cattle populations, and veterinary services are critical for the economic stability of the area. Veterinary services available from adjacent counties are limited. It is not practically or economically feasible for veterinarians to expand their coverage area while continuing to provide quality service to their clients.

The risks of a veterinarian not being secured or retained are many, including: increased livestock morbidity and mortality due to lack of available veterinary care, improper animal treatments, improper animal handling and increased threats to animal welfare, and the failure to recognize emerging and foreign animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or other chemicals are used improperly or when improper drug withdrawals are followed. The proper care and management of food animals will help ensure a safe and wholesome food supply. Environmental health can also be threatened with the lack of guidance for certain product and waste disposal. Therefore the lack of a food animal veterinary professional in this region may threaten the entire US and international communities by failure to detect and respond to potential animal and public health concerns.

(248 words)

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.

NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreement at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.