

# 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: MS113**

#### 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 #3 –Newton and Scott Counties, Mississippi  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: Third street, near the intersection of state routes 35 and 80 in Forest, Mississippi in Scott county  
(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 would be to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services by veterinary care in an approximate 50-mile radius from Forest, MS in Scott and Newton counties. This area of the state has a large cattle population, as well as a large number of poultry populations.

Another important objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contributor to the local economy. **This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 50% of their time in food animal practice.** While there is one veterinary satellite clinic in this area, over 42,000 total food animals are serviced by a single veterinarian. (NASS statistics and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine records). This area will require the services of additional veterinary care. Both of these counties are also designated critical need areas by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates with 5,000-25,000 food animals in counties with 0 veterinarians. Rural in nature (Newton Co pop'n - 22,000, Scott Co pop'n - 29,000, US Census), the location of this position will provide accessibility to larger cities such as Jackson and Meridian, Mississippi.

(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. 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.

As one of the largest poultry-producing areas of the state, many operations raise both beef and poultry. Therefore a veterinarian trained in general livestock production who understands public health and environmental issues is important. As needed, this practitioner would be expected to provide support to the state and federal agencies when dealing with regulatory issues such as animal disease outbreaks and movement restrictions. They would be expected to work 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. 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.

(200 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).

While record of recruitment attempts are circumstantial, CVM externship records show that students go to these areas to gain experience in food animal production. The current practicing veterinarian has had a difficult time in hiring an associate due to the economic realities of the region, yet has expressed an interest in retiring in the near future. Livestock producers and representatives of the state Cattlemen's Association have also identified a need for additional veterinarians to provide services in the area. Loan repayment assistance will help a food animal practitioner better establish themselves in the community.

(94 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. All areas of the state are also experiencing growth in sheep and goat populations. This area of the state has a large number of both cattle and poultry populations, and veterinary services are crucial for the protection of animal health and food security.

Veterinary services available from adjacent counties are limited. It is not practically or economically feasible for nearby 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. Environmental health can also be threatened with the lack of guidance for certain product and waste disposal. Thus the proper care and management of food animals will help ensure a safe and wholesome food supply. 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 in a timely manner to potential animal and public health concerns.

(250 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.

OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013