

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: MS114

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 #4 –Winston and Noxubee Counties, Mississippi
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: Jefferson Street, near the intersection of state routes 14 and 145 in Macon, Mississippi in Noxubee 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 main objective of a veterinarian serving this area would be to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services by providing veterinary care for livestock operations in an approximate 40-mile radius from Macon, MS in Winston and Noxubee counties. Both of these counties are designated critical need areas by the AVMA Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates where over 107,000 total food animals are present with no veterinarians to service them. This area of the state has a large cattle population, as well as a moderate number of backyard poultry, swine and small ruminant populations.

Another important objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community and contribute to the local economy. **This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 50% of their time in food animal practice.** While rural in nature (Noxubee county pop'n - 11,600, Winston county pop'n - 19,000, US Census), the location of this position will provide the veterinarian with accessibility to larger cities such as Starkville and Jackson, Mississippi. Its proximity to Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM) (approximately 45 miles northwest), will allow for ample continuing education and referral opportunities.

(196 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. It is anticipated that the veterinarian will also work with the local sale barn. They will also be expected to demonstrate and educate others on proper animal handling and promote animal welfare according to scientifically-based industry standards. The veterinarian will likely need to provide some equine and companion animal services to ensure business viability.

The veterinarian 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. Furthermore, 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.

(195 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 written evidence of recruitment attempts are not available, this is a crucial area of need according to many sources. According to AVMA data, these two counties have over 25,000 food animal concentration with no food animal veterinarians. Livestock producers and representatives of the state Cattlemen's Association have expressed a need for veterinarians to provide routine and emergency veterinary services in the area. The MSU CVM has provided large animal ambulatory services in the area and can also attest for this need.

(100 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 4th leading commodity. This area of the state has cattle, swine and poultry populations, and the veterinary services are crucial for the area's agricultural economic stability. This area of the state has also experienced growth in small ruminant populations.

Veterinary services available from adjacent counties are limited. To the northwest, the CVM can provide for both small and large animal veterinary services. However, it is not practically or economically feasible for the college to expand their large animal coverage area. Furthermore, the retirement of the current practitioner in the area will leave a major void in veterinary care. 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 withdraws are followed. 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 quickly 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:

Name: James A. Watson

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Mississippi Board of Animal Health

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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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