

# 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: VA111**

#### 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: Bland, Smyth, and Tazewell Counties  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: Tazewell, VA 24651  
(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 2009 Virginia General Assembly ordered a study of the Large Animal Veterinary Shortage in Virginia. The study was led by the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and included participants from industry groups, state government, food animal veterinarians, and economic development agencies. The study concluded that there was a significant shortage of food supply veterinarians in southwest Virginia.**

**Objectives for a food supply veterinarian in this designated area:**

- **Join an existing practice and add food animal veterinary services capacity to the practice, or establish a new rural predominantly food animal practice in the area. Provide production management and emergency veterinary services in the area.**
- **Assist local producers to diversify or expand their livestock production to sustain livestock production in the area.**
- **Support state/federal animal health officials and the local health department by helping to recognize and manage potential foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases, and zoonotic diseases.**
- **Enhance the production of a safe food supply through client education on the judicious use of antibiotics and the observation of appropriate antibiotic withdrawal times.**
- **Serve as a resource for local Animal Control on livestock and companion animal health and welfare cases.**

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 veterinarian will provide veterinary service to the designated three county areas. Since there are no food animal practices in the designated area, it would be preferred for the loan repayment recipient to establish a resident practice within the area. However, a commitment from a surrounding practice to commit an employed veterinarian to providing service in the area has the potential of helping to incubate a new, resident practice if the recipient can work for a practice in an adjacent area long enough to establish a client base prior to moving into the area. The veterinarian for this area is expected to provide production management and emergency veterinary services for livestock producers in the area. NASS statistics show that there are 32,100 mature beef cows, 3,200 milking cows, 10,300 sheep, and 3,834 goats in the area. The area livestock populations should support multiple mixed food supply veterinarians in this area. There are two food animal predominant and one mixed animal veterinarian in the designated area. The mixed practitioner is beyond normal retirement age. Southwest Virginia terrain requires a greater practitioner density than other areas because of the longer point to point travel times in the mountains.**

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 Buchanan County administrators have been aggressively trying to recruit a veterinarian to establish a practice in that county. The county has offered incentives that include space in the county industrial park and a contract to assist the local animal control department with large animal and companion animal welfare cases and professional services for the local animal pound. This type of contract could assist someone interested in establishing a mixed food animal practice by providing some guaranteed income while the practice is established.**

**On January 13, 2011 the Wise County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution of Support for a Food Supply Veterinarian.**

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).

**Failure to recruit a food supply veterinarian will be a threat to the local livestock industry viability. Livestock producers in the area will suffer from a lack of veterinary services to help them to increase their efficiency through professional advice on preventative medicine and production management techniques. A failure to strategically improve the local livestock production enterprise management will have a serious impact on southwest Virginia producers since they lack the economies of scale that sustain larger producers in other parts of the country. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service is expected to become a smaller resource for producers because of budget issues. A lack in expert advice will leave producers to their own devices in managing livestock health issues. Availability of a veterinarian that has a client-patient relationship with the producers will reduce the improper use of antibiotics that contribute to antibiotic residues in the food supply. The public health will continue at a greater risk without a local food supply veterinarian to assist local producers and health departments to recognize and manage zoonotic and emerging diseases in the area.**

There are 98,400 mature beef cows, 7,200 milking cows, 14,200 sheep, and 9,046 goats in adjacent counties. These counties are served by 10 large animal predominant veterinarians and 4 mixed practice veterinarians. A significant part of the practice time for some of the large animal veterinarians is dedicated to equine work and to work in North Carolina. The services provided by practices in adjacent localities do not meet the needs of the designated area.

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.

**Not required at this time according to instructions.**

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Richard L. Wilkes, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Email: [Richard.Wilkes@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Richard.Wilkes@vdacs.virginia.gov)

Telephone Number: (804) 692-0601  
(Area code required)

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