

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.

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: California (statewide)
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, 95616
(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: UC Cooperative Extension Position Title: Assistant Specialist

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Poultry Health

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 objective of a veterinarian in this position will be to improve the population health and safety of food of California's commercial broiler and laying chickens, turkeys and game birds. To accomplish this objective, she/he will work with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) county farm advisors, veterinary medical practitioners, industry veterinarians and organizations, state and federal regulatory agencies, commercial producers, and policy makers to 1) protect the California poultry industry, 2) engage in UC ANR's Strategic Initiatives and Program Teams, and 3) provide statewide leadership to UC ANR's academics located in counties and on campuses, 4) interface between live bird markets and animal health officials to prevent and respond to emerging and emergency diseases, and 5) provide new information, education and outreach to a broad range of poultry stakeholders including commercial producers, small flock owners, specialty avian enthusiasts and urban backyard poultry raisers.

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).

Three main areas of activity will be expected. The first is the development of a creative, independent and productive research program funded by extramural sources, which will be a fundamental and indispensable requirement of the position. She or he will also provide leadership in directing research projects and/or field training of professional and graduate students. The second will be to extend knowledge gained through personal research, as well as research performed by others across the US, to constituents outside the university cited above through Cooperative Extension outreach. Such outreach will focus on promoting an understanding of preventive and control practices to protect California's poultry resources and contribute to this vital state industry by promoting health through implementation of surveillance systems, biosecurity practices, management, vaccination, and therapeutic processes to protect the birds, the food they produce, and commercial markets. The veterinarian must publish findings from this research in peer-reviewed professional/scientific journals, but also in media directed at the public, industry groups, and producers. In-person presentations at national and industry meetings will also be a requirement. The third will be to perform university and public service; the latter will include leadership on UC ANR committees.

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).

This is the first time the University will be recruiting a faculty member specifically devoted to poultry health and food safety epidemiology to address the population-level needs of the state's commercial egg layer and broiler operations. UC Davis has traditionally had difficulty attracting qualified domestic faculty in epidemiology due to student debt and salaries that are not competitive with the private workforce, and relatively few domestic students specialize in poultry. Recruitment incentives will include an above-scale salary, equipment start-up package, office and laboratory space, and an annual discretionary account of \$10,000-\$15,000 for travel and community outreach for extending knowledge.

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).

The landscape of poultry population health in California was transformed with the 2008 passage of Proposition 2 that mandates minimum cage size requirements for egg-laying hens be implemented by January 1, 2015. California has an exceptional record of safe eggs under currently employed commercial housing systems (including from cage-free hens), but there are concerns that replacement with new systems could lead to enhanced poultry exposure to bacteria and viruses from small mammals and wild birds, and that birds could potentially suffer additional injuries from new housing. Without the availability of a veterinarian with expertise in disease control and eradication in populations in place through the University of California and UC Cooperative Extension, one of California's top commercial agricultural industries will be severely disadvantaged, and public health/food safety may potentially be affected should fears about the spread of infectious disease (e.g., *Salmonella enteritidis*, avian influenza) be realized. As a border state, California has always been in a precarious position for importation of foreign animal diseases into commercial flocks (e.g., velogenic exotic Newcastle's disease), again underscoring the vital importance of a poultry epidemiologist whose reach can extend throughout the state.

This will be a particularly challenging position for recruitment because the number of US veterinarians with demonstrable expertise and experience in poultry medicine and an advanced degree with board eligibility/certification in epidemiology is small.

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: Annette.Whiteford@cdfa.ca.gov

Telephone Number: (916) 900-5000
(Area code required)

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