



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
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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: Central Eastern Georgia, District 3, 32 counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Taliaferro County, Crawfordville, GA 30631
(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: Ga. Dept. of Agriculture Position Title: District Veterinary Supervisor
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 Georgia Meat Inspection Section (GMIS) is mandated by law to perform all Program tasks “at least equal to” the federal meat and poultry inspection program standards. Of the five geographical Districts in Georgia which must have a District Veterinary Supervisor (DVS) there are two vacant positions. The Supervisors administer the GMIS in accordance with USDA/FSIS and Georgia rules and regulations to ensure that only wholesome meat derived from healthy animals, safe from harmful chemicals and drug residues enter the human food chain.

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). This GMIS District Veterinary Supervisor would directly supervise GMIS inspection personnel performing humane handling verifications, ante-mortem inspections, postmortem inspections, and sanitation verifications during the slaughter of meat animals intended for sale. The DVS are required to perform final dispositions on all abnormal animals. They provide direct supervision to personnel who inspect the processing of meat and meat food products and enforce the regulations governing cutting, boning, curing, smoking, sausage manufacturing, formulation, and labeling. DVS oversee the safety and health programs for employees and all personnel actions within their District. They coordinate with the Meat Compliance Officers the distribution and commerce of meat products by Georgia meat processors, haulers, retail stores, food warehouses, restaurants, schools, etc. They provide professional oversight of the GMIS sampling and testing program of carcasses and finished products for microbiological and chemical hazards.

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). Of the two vacant District Veterinary Supervisor positions one has been vacant for approximately three years. Recruitment of a DVS has been hampered because of lack of funding for raises and by budget cuts at both the State and National level during the past limited economic times. Also, many veterinarians interested in Meat Inspection service have veterinary school loans which can cause financial hardship if income received is not adequate to cover the cost of living and loan repayment.

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 Georgia’s number one industry and according to the US Meat Industry statistics Georgia is one of the top Poultry slaughtering states. The United States exported 1.07 million

tons of beef and beef variety meat, 1.92 million tons of pork, and 3.7 million tons of poultry in 2010. Georgia has 99 state inspected meat processing plants within the five Districts and 22 within the requested area. Meat inspection is paramount to safe food. Trained District Veterinary Supervisors perform many duties involved in the processing of meat and meat food products, meat products distribution and commerce by meat processors, schools, hotels, roadside stands, and flea markets and respond to complaints from consumers and the general public. Meat inspection is important to make sure that dangerous organisms/contaminants such as E.coli, Listeria, and Salmonella do not contaminate our food supply. Also, randomly-selected samples must be checked for possible residues such as antibiotics, pesticides and hormones. A recent CDC report estimated that foodborne diseases sicken millions of people each year with 325,000 hospitalizations. A District Veterinary Supervisor position would help insure a safer meat inspection system within Georgia and prevent shipment of contaminated food products to other states and countries.

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.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Robert M. Cobb Jr.

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Georgia Department of Agriculture
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Email: 404-656-3671

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(Area code required)

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.