

NIFA NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

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: Natchitoches, Sabine and Vernon Parishes / Louisiana
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Louisiana Hwy 1 and Louisiana Hwy 6
Natchitoches Parish
Natchitoches, LA 71457
(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).

Supplying a food animal veterinarian, at the 30% level (Type II shortage) would answer five objectives: care for food animals, support for the community emergency care, provide surveillance for disease outbreaks and stabilize the economic welfare of the community.

Food animal veterinarians in this region are few and far between. Beef cattle producers have contacted the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry about this region specifically asking for special consideration. The specific needs revolve around herd management, calf readiness for feedlots and proper client education.

Food animal veterinarians are characterized as being “strongly family oriented,” helping within the communities by participating in community events.

Emergencies along these parishes are primarily located along rural routes, and therefore often are seen too late to benefit the animal.

Veterinary Surveillance is the key to any biosecurity program. This region contains many of the larger producing beef calf ranches, a poultry plant and as well as small farms. A food animal veterinarian centered within this region would supply valuable information to the farmer and also be the first person farmers call if a trend in animal diseases appears. This dedication touches the lives of many within the community and helps economic growth

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).

Agriculture in this region is quite varied. From poultry production, including backyard flocks, to beef cattle production, a food animal veterinarian will be involved in all aspects of animal care. Producers report the difficulty calling a veterinarian to make farm calls at anytime—day, night, week or weekends. Veterinarians within one parish east report the difficulty traveling to these parishes to perform routine veterinary work. They reported the poor success of veterinary emergency calls because routine work was not done and advice from laymen delayed proper care.

Reestablishing a successful practice in this area of the state is doable according to cattlemen, but it will take a food animal veterinarian that can establish a relationship with the farmers that includes long term trust—someone who will be there when called.

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).

There are very, very few veterinarians of any kind in these parishes. The region has been serviced by the few food animal veterinarians that spend most of their practice time east of this area. The few food animal practitioners there are reaching retirement age or have recently died. Conversations about recruitment and retainment of veterinarians have focused on the ability to keep a food animal veterinarian in a country environment. This veterinarian would be wanted in the community, but have work cut out to re-establish the trust between the veterinarian and the producer.

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).

According to the 2007 US Census of Agriculture, a total of 59,706 cattle on 840 operations, 2,098 head of goats on 107 farms and 513 head of sheep on 26 farms are being raised on pasture grass. These numbers would indicate that most of the operations in this area would probably qualify as limited resource operations. Also most of these producers would tend to have outside employment or absent operators for most of the work week due to employment off the farm. In some cases, a significant number may be employed in non-commuting location were they may not be actively involved in their operations except on the weekend or days off from their off-farm employment.

In discussions with producers from this area, state and federal auction markets contribute to a tremendous amount of cattle sorting, extending the possibility of disease transfer as these calves are shipped to backgrounders or feed yards primarily in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. A veterinarian recently discussed with me that the lack of veterinarians has placed feed stores as a top resource for information and veterinary supplies. Both the sources and the products are not up to the standards we expect from a food animal practitioner. This veterinarian, in recent dealing with a case such is this, had the farmer reply, “I didn’t know who to call.” Additional food animal veterinarians in this area would help alleviate misinformation as well as be a source for preventing outbreaks.

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: Brent Robbins, DVM, MBA

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Louisiana Department of Agriculture

Email: brobbins@ldaf.state.la.us

Telephone Number: 225-922-1238
(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.

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