

NIFA NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
 US Department of Agriculture
 OMB Information Collection
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 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: Jackson, Lincoln, Ouachita, Richland (West and East Carroll) Parishes / Louisiana
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Interstate 20 corridor
 Ouachita Parish
 West Monroe, LA 71291
(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 ___ Exotics (pen raised alternative livestock), Alpaca and other camelid

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).

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

Food animal veterinary support has dwindled as population centers along the I-20 corridor have increased. Several rural parishes in this area have one food animal veterinarian or no veterinarian at all. (Parishes of East and West Carroll are primarily row crop farming with very little cattle, but are included because of the 4-H and FFA programs.) Food animal veterinarians are characterized as being "strongly family oriented," helping with in the communities by coaching athletic teams, 4-H, FFA and community involvement in the Lion's Club and Kiwanis Clubs.

Veterinarians are our eyes and ears for front line surveillance with incursions of any disease effecting the food chain and economics in America. This is our poultry belt, our largest agricultural industry, and surveillance is the key to any biosecurity program. 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).

The food animal veterinarian in the I-20 corridor, located in a city base, will have to be able to communicate with the rural farmer in a special manner to nurture new or improved techniques in animal care. A food animal veterinarian's tasks will include routine food animal work—ca lfhood vaccinations, birthing problems, nutrition and parasite control. This veterinarian will also have to break through the entrenched mindset with solid ideas and show that preventative medicine will benefit a farmer by producing a better product for our large interstate market with regular, not last minute, care. Many of the farmers in the area will be the last of their generation to farm, and the family farm is often a second income for a family.

The home base of this veterinarian can be a city or smaller town, which is a bonus when trying to attract a younger generation. This would allow a young veterinarian more options for a social life as well as opportunities for involvement in the community.

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 Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association conducts a job fair at its annual winter meeting. One practice in this region hires every food animal veterinarian that can be tempted to north Louisiana. These offers are substantial and the benefits healthy. After accepting and working for a short time, the veterinarian moves on to a small animal practice, according to this hiring veterinarian.

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine provided answers to House Concurrent Resolution No. 183 detailing how it would find ways to increase the number of large animal veterinarians practicing in Louisiana.

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, there were a total of 43,040 cattle on 676 operations, 1,259 goats on 90 farms and 99 sheep of 8 farms being raised on pasture grass throughout these parishes. Over 70 percent of these cattle operations had less than 50 head per farm. Most of the operations would probably qualify as limited resource operations.

Producers would tend to have outside employment or absent operators for most of the work week due to employment off the farm and may not be actively involved in their operations except on the weekend or days off from their off-farm employment.

These operations point to time delayed responses within the disease emergency system. Access to a veterinarian primarily would be after hours calls, or after all the neighbors have been by to see if they could help—one tenement of biosecurity that is a detriment to containment of an incident.

Many of these cow-calf operations sell to out-of-state order buyers through the auction market or video sales, further risking the spread of a contagious disease.

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:

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