

**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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# 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: St. Helena, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes ("Florida Parishes", East Louisiana)  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Louisiana Hwy 38 and Interstate 55  
 Tangipahoa Parish  
 Kentwood, LA 70444  
(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, administer emergency care, provide surveillance for disease outbreaks and stabilize the economic welfare of the community.

The three parishes located in the “toe” of Louisiana are primarily known as our “dairy parishes”. Adding a food animal veterinarian, at the 80% level (Type I 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.

Veterinarians have seen a substantial drop in farm-related income while seeing an increase in small animal income within the last 10 years. According to the veterinarians contacted, the radius of the service has dramatically increased within the same time period from 15 miles to 100 miles. Food animal veterinarians are characterized as being “strongly family oriented,” helping by coaching athletic teams and community involvement in 4-H, FFA, the Lion’s Club and Kiwanis Clubs.

Emergencies, not fitting into a regular 9-5 job, are still handled by the food animal practitioner, whether the animal is hauled to the clinic or a farm call is made. Veterinarians are our eyes and ears for front line surveillance with incursions of any disease effecting the food chain and economics in America. This dedication touches the lives of many within the community and helps support 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).**

A veterinarian deeply rooted into this community can help to establish and implement sufficient reproduction programs including monthly pregnancy checks for dairy producers (yearly for beef), diagnosing and treating causes of anestrus, treating metritis and mastitis, vaginal/uterine prolapses, and calf deliveries. Dairy veterinarians would also consult on nutritional imbalances that can lead to clinical illness. Food animal veterinarians have been extremely busy in the cold and rainy weather with parasite control, hoof care (sole abscesses, bruises, foot rot, hairy heel warts) which, if not treated, can cause a significant loss to producers, according to veterinarians consulted.

Because of the small farm (usually around 100 beef or dairy cows) nature, the establishment and implementation of well designed vaccine protocols for both beef and dairy herds, catering to the needs and problems for each individual farm, presents more opportunity for a veterinarian to become integrated within the community. This also applies to supplying information and helping implement farm emergency preparedness—the tornado spin offs from a hurricane to nuclear disasters.

The 4-H and FFA are a big part of this community and the veterinarian’s involvement in these programs with the children will help insure the future of the food animal industry.

**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 meeting. Two practices routinely try and fail to recruit a veterinarian trained in a large variety of species to work at either practice, their plan for lessening the excessive workload and provide relief work for all veterinarians. These offers are substantial and the benefits healthy. No one has recently shown interest in moving to this area.

The LSU School 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 99,227 cattle on 1,701 pasture grass operations, 2,013 goats on 166 farms and 159 sheep on 21 farms in these parishes. Almost 65 percent of these beef operations had less than 50 head per farm. These numbers would indicate that most of the operations in this area would probably qualify as limited resource operations. The smaller dairies have owners with 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 addition to these working conditions, these farms fall within a 40 to 120 mile radius of a nuclear plume from Riverbend Nuclear Power Plant. These farmers need to be able to have veterinary information from a trusted source as soon as possible. This whole area is also compromised by the impending retirement of a dairy practitioner.

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

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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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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