

# 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: SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK STATE  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: 192 Old Country Rd, Eastport, NY 11941-1422  
(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: Cornell University Position Title: Director, Cornell Univ. Duck Research Lab  
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Avian health, Vaccine Research and Production

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).

Cornell University Duck Research Laboratory (CUDRL) is located in Eastport, Long Island, New York, a community about 65 miles east of New York City. CUDRL is an avian disease diagnostic and extension facility that also conducts research on diseases of domestic ducks. The laboratory produces USDA-licensed biologics used for prevention of duck diseases. The laboratory employs 7 individuals including a veterinarian as a Director. The laboratory provides technical service to the duck producers and other avian clients in the area. This is the only facility that researches on diseases of ducks as well as produces USDA-licensed vaccines. CUDRL serves as a national and international resource for diagnosis, prevention and research on duck diseases. The duck vaccines are a lifeline for the duck producers. The laboratory services commercial duck farms producing about 6 million ducks or about 85% of the North American duck industry. In addition, it provides services to other avian producers such as chickens, turkeys, game birds, and pet bird fanciers. The objectives of the veterinarian meeting this shortage situation will be to serve as director of the laboratory, overseeing vaccine production and providing avian health expertise to duck flock owners and owners of other poultry species. Activities aimed at poultry health will occupy 100% of the veterinarian's time.

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 veterinarian serving as laboratory director is critical to the functioning and running of this laboratory. The veterinarian provides technical assistance to duck and other avian producers regarding disease prevention, biosecurity and treatment. The director oversees the production and testing of duck vaccines; supervises laboratory staff, and visits duck and other avian farms to make recommendations on biosecurity and disease control. The director plays a critical role in investigation of emerging avian diseases, diseases of public health importance and other related emergency situations.

**Activities and responsibilities of this position:**

1. Provide diagnostic and extension support to the duck industry and other avian clients.
2. Supervise biologic production, testing and release of biologics according to the USDA regulations. The director acts as a liaison with the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics.
3. Provide technical support to the laboratory and biologic production staff.
4. Supervise maintenance of duck-breeding colony that supplies susceptible ducklings and embryonating eggs for diagnosis, research and vaccine quality control.
5. Work closely with the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, Animal Health Diagnostic Center and program coordinators, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to assure laboratory/program integration in variety of areas.
6. Supervise testing of product samples from processing plants for safety.
7. Develop molecular tests for diagnosis of duck infections, and conduct applied research on problems of economic importance to the duck industry.
8. Coordinate with Cornell University Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) on updating research protocols, inspection and maintenance of CUDRL research facility.

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 position has been vacant for over 2 years. Past efforts to hire and retain laboratory director have been unsuccessful. The position has been advertised twice, first in September, 2010, and again in November, 2011, but has not been able to hire and retain a suitable person. Living cost in this area is higher than other parts of the New York State. The industry has even tried to entice the candidates by offering assistance with housing but has not been successful so far.

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 risk of not filling this position will be loss of diagnostic and extension service to the duck industry and other avian growers. Duck vaccines are a life-line for the duck growers to produce healthy and wholesome

product. The industry could suffer economic losses and the price of growing ducks will go up. Other avian growers and hobbyist will suffer economic loss due to unavailability of diagnostic and consultation service. Long Island duck is famous nationally and most of the local restaurants have it on their menu. The local economy may suffer due to low or unavailability of wholesome, safe and quality ducks for restaurant business. It may also impact other allied industries such as duck feed and feather processing businesses.

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: David c. Smith, DVM

Title: Director, Division of Animal Industry

Organization: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

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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.