



National Institute of Food and 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.

Clarion, Jefferson, Indiana, Armstrong counties

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position:

Summerville, PA 15864 at intersection of West Penn St. and 2nd Avenue

(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).

The NASS data indicates a food animal population (75,473) consisting primarily of cattle, but with appreciable numbers of hogs and small ruminants. These animals exist on 3,807 farms, 454 of which report incomes of over \$40,000 per year. With eleven mixed animal veterinarians providing service to food animals, this area translates to 6,861 head of livestock on 346 farms spread over 249 square miles for each veterinarian providing service. Increasing veterinarian availability will benefit all sectors of the animal agriculture community allowing greater opportunity for consultative services in nutrition, bio-security, disease prevention and control, responsible animal drug use, pre-harvest food safety, and livestock care and well-being. The outcome should be improved farm profitability and increased community appreciation for biosecurity and disease prevention as well as producer ability to provide a higher quality food product to the larger food processors as well as the niche market retail customers they serve.

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 region is best suited to a veterinarian with skills and interests applicable to food animal medicine and surgery, willing to provide equine and/or companion animal veterinary care as well. The presence of rural mixed animal practices strengthens community animal health infrastructure as well as providing employment opportunities to support and technical staff. The role of rural practitioners as community public health/animal health/food safety educators has become more important as this area experiences growth in locally produced and marketed food animal products. The insight of veterinarians in matters of animal welfare, best production practices, pre-harvest food safety and foreign and zoonotic animal disease risks provides critical support to smaller scale sustainable agricultural production. Rural practitioners support community youth activities through mentorship and providing animal health testing for a variety of 4-H and FFA events. Generally speaking, rural veterinary practitioners promote public understanding of agriculture as well as performing food animal disease surveillance through daily practice activities in communities with a majority of inhabitants removed from agriculture and limited in their understanding of livestock production. The rural veterinarian dedicated to this community becomes a role model to guide promising students into careers in animal health, food safety, and public health.

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).

A Clarion county veterinarian's daughter returned after graduation to help in his practice, but for personal reasons could only stay for one year. The father retired unsuccessful in finding an associate. This practice may cease to exist. A solo practitioner in Jefferson County, who tried for years to hire an associate finally succeeded by financing his nephew's veterinary education. This senior practitioner is close to retirement, unless a third veterinarian can be recruited, the practice will revert to a solo practice. The result from these practice changes may be a net loss of veterinary service in three large practice areas.

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).

This region has a large number of traditional and "niche market" animal agricultural operations with limited veterinary engagement. Increasing accessibility of veterinary services to this expanding yet marginalized food production sector is an effective means of promoting pre-harvest food safety, biosecurity, and animal disease surveillance. Restructuring veterinary service to improve veterinary expertise to all production sectors increases the likelihood that dangerous transmissible and foreign animal diseases will be promptly detected. Improved knowledge of best practices in sanitation, air quality, nutrition,

therapeutics, bio-security, and animal handling as they apply to organic and other non-conventional forms of food animal production will improve the overall viability of animal operations. Local economic recovery benefits as well. VMLRP assistance in this area will allow a motivated young veterinarian to enter rural practice and engage producers in food animal agricultural best practices, an opportunity that is precluded by high educational debt loads.

If the practices in Clarion and Jefferson counties lose practitioners, as projected, the area will be served by 8 mixed animal veterinarians instead of the current eleven, shifting the ratios of animals, farms and square miles per veterinarian to 9,434:1, 476:1 and 342:1 respectively.

The topography of this area contains many mountains and valleys. Fertile farming areas are dispersed broadly and not easily served even by a full time large animal veterinarian. Multiple veterinary practices provide the most sustainable method of assuring adequate animal care, food safety, and disease surveillance.

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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