

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.

Sullivan, Columbia, Luzerne, Wyoming counties

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

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

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position:

Intersection of routes 309 and 415 in Dallas, PA 18690

_____ (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).

This 2,220 square mile area contains 2,386 farms, of which 342 (15%) report annual incomes above \$40,000. The region's food animal population of 34,660 animals is served by 7 veterinarians in mixed animal practices, each covering 317 square miles. Two of these veterinarians may soon be lost, increasing these ratio numbers. There is a strong dairy and cattle industry, plus many farms with small ruminants, hogs and poultry. Some of these farms supplement their income with agricultural operations and request veterinary service intermittently. This region, therefore, is better served by a veterinarian deriving the majority of their income from equine and companion animal practice, yet able to provide quality food animal veterinary service and consultation on issues such as profitability, animal welfare, drug residue avoidance, biosecurity and pre-harvest animal handling. Traditional veterinary services will always be essential, but there is a diminishing presence of Cooperative Extension field personnel and increasing numbers of small "niche market" farms commonly owned by individuals with limited agricultural background. Therefore, the area needs more food animal veterinarians who can also provide outreach to producer groups and consultation to clients promoting animal health and welfare plus strong biosecurity.

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 recruited to this area will spend at least 30% of their time in food animal practice and the balance with companion animals. Beyond medical and surgical services, this individual will be involved with client outreach and producer education related to production medicine, animal drug residue avoidance, bio-security principles, disease control, animal health monitoring, and livestock well-being. The planned reduction of Penn State University's Cooperative Extension activities has begun and will continue over the next several years. As a result, there is a real need for veterinarians who are willing to educate producers about a broad range of animal production and health related subjects. Small farm food supply veterinary medical outreach will enhance animal disease surveillance in a segment of the industry that previously had minimal exposure to professional veterinary services with potential animal health, food safety, and public health benefits. Serving a mixed practice clientele will provide this veterinarian the opportunity to educate non-farm companion animal clients on the critical role of production agriculture in society. Involvement in community organizations and schools provides avenues for youth mentoring, education of the general public and specific producer group meetings.

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).

One practitioner providing service to this area has recently closed her practice. A second practitioner now in his seventies will be retiring and without attracting an associate or potential buyer. With the exception of Columbia county, this region relies on food animal veterinary service from practices in adjacent counties which often must prioritize response to requests for service based on distance and workload demands from their home county clientele. One of these non-resident practices is almost constantly trying to hire and retain new associates willing to provide food animal veterinary service.

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 primary risk to this area is that animals in need of veterinary medical and surgical attention will not get it, therefore directly impacting animal health and potentially food safety and public health. Additionally, there is a critical need to educate producers in best animal husbandry practices that address animal well-being, production efficiency and economic sustainability. Increasingly, veterinarians are looked upon to be the sources of information on proper food animal drug use, pre-harvest food safety risk reduction, principles of biosecurity and foreign animal disease recognition. The rural mixed practice setting is ideal

for providing non-farm companion animal clients with accurate information about food animal agriculture. The rural practice veterinarian is an authoritative source of public health, animal health and food safety information through outreach to youth and community organizations. Veterinarians often serve as role models and mentors, introducing students to opportunities in animal agriculture and veterinary medicine. As cooperative extension's contact with the agricultural community shrinks, the need for veterinarians as educators expands.

This large region already suffers from a deficiency of veterinarians and is losing field extension personnel, creating an educational void likely to increase without incentives for veterinarians willing to engage in rural practice. The hundreds of small, high risk herds and flocks in these four-counties need an expanded professional veterinary presence to meet this serious challenge.

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: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health and
Diagnostic Services

Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Email: crashultz@pa.gov

Telephone Number: (717) 772-2852 Extension 203
(Area code required)

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