



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of 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.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Central Washington – Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Yakima, and Klickitat Counties

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

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Ellensburg, Washington

(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: Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) Position Title: Veterinary Medical Officer

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).

It is imperative that the regulatory veterinary needs of the state be met with a Washington licensed accredited veterinarian to support this area. Only 4 Washington State Department of Agriculture field veterinarians serve the entire state, covering an area of 66,550 square miles and a total livestock and poultry population of 7.5 million. The state is divided into four geographical regions; two field veterinarians are assigned east of the Cascades and two field veterinarians west of the Cascades. This is a state-funded, one-half time position to provide regulatory work assistance to the field veterinarian assigned to this area. The Central Washington location includes the region with the most intensive dairy operations, replacement heifer and calf production, beef cow calf and feeder operations. In addition, the Central region includes many families with cultural traditions that favor the emergence of zoonotic agents. The objectives of a position in this region would include responsibility for animal and public health protection through the control and eradication of livestock diseases, or diseases of captive exotic wildlife or natural wildlife; identification and control of zoonotic diseases; investigation of residues and the detection, investigation and prevention of pathogenic microorganisms in animal food products.

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 activities of a veterinarian in this area would include: reviewing current livestock disease research reports and recommending new practices and procedures; may act as the lead for unassigned cooperative agreements (CA) that may be acquired by the department; keep all Animal Health personnel informed of updates on the progress of any disease outbreak in this state; collect field samples as needed to support Animal Services Program and Cooperative Agreements; provide reportable disease prevention strategies; identify and respond to diseases that may infect or have the potential to infect humans; act as liaison between the State Veterinarian and Livestock groups and be an expert resource to the Food Safety Program. This individual would also perform herd examinations, establish quarantines, and investigate animal welfare complaints; investigate violations of laws pertaining to livestock and poultry diseases and assist in prosecution of violators; provide unbiased information to the general public, special interest groups, media, and others on animal husbandry practices.

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).

WSDA has an ongoing recruitment program that typically coincides with the students' regulatory veterinary medicine course. Historically this has yielded very few, if any, applicants. As numerous AVMA and other studies have concluded, the majority of students have a much greater interest in small animal veterinary private practice than in regulatory veterinary medicine. New veterinarians are drawn to small animal practice in urban areas with significantly higher salary offerings. As a result, WSDA struggles with obtaining young veterinarians who desire to spend their careers in regulatory medicine and epidemiology, which poses a serious obstacle to succession planning within the agency.

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).

Lack of knowledgeable, committed veterinary epidemiologists in this Regional position directly affects the protection of the national herd (livestock and poultry), the health of the national food supply, and WSDA's ability to respond to reportable disease outbreaks. Without early identification of disease and rapid, effective disease response, spread to healthy herds within our state and the U.S. will occur. Spread of significant disease outbreaks within Washington and the U.S. livestock herds and poultry flocks not only endangers the nation's food supply, but cripples the United States' ability to conduct international trade in these commodities worth billions of dollars per year to the U.S. economy and compromises public health. In the past decade, many new zoonotic diseases have been identified as posing a threat to public health; the majority of these new diseases were first identified at their source – animals. Examples include highly pandemic H1N1 influenza, SARS, Nipah, and Hendra viruses. In addition, this region includes intensive cattle operations, both dairy and beef, as well as poultry production both in housed facilities and backyard flocks. The regions Hispanic population uses traditional methods of cheese production, small ruminant food preparation, and other practices that have resulted in foodborne disease outbreaks, including Salmonellosis, Listeriosis and Campylobacteriosis. Surveillance for, prevention of, and response to zoonotic disease by a veterinarian in this position is critical as the first line of defense against the spread of these diseases to humans.

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.

This position with WSDA is required to provide support for emergency response during reportable disease outbreaks and all-hazards responses. The candidates in this position are provided training in emergency response, incident command system, and foreign animal disease diagnosis.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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