

# 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: Western Washington – Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason Counties  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
(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).

There are no food animal veterinarians located in Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason counties\*. This area consists of over 1,350 farms; the average farm size ranges from 23 to 60 acres and is home to over 13,700 cattle, 5,000 poultry and 1,880 sheep and goats\*\*. The objective of a food animal veterinarian in this area is to serve the variety of animals and operations that exist from large animal clientele to the small acreage and hobby farm movement; veterinarians must be willing and able to adapt to the needs of a unique and varied clientele. Unfortunately, time has shown that fewer veterinarians are willing to accept the food animal challenges unique to this area. It is important that veterinary services are available to all facets of producers, not targeted towards specific species or population groups, and particularly in this region to monitor the health of animals and production practices near or at the rural-urban interface where risk factors for emergence of known and newly emerging pathogens are high. A veterinarian must commit at least 30 percent of their time to providing food animal veterinary services in this area.

\*WSVMA List of Licensed Veterinarians

\*\* 2007 Census of Agriculture

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 be to provide veterinary services for food animal clients. Activities would include routine fertility exams and pregnancy diagnosis, bull soundness examinations, routine regulatory brucellosis vaccination, setting up vaccination protocols, emergency treatment of individual animals (sickness, dystocia), client education on preventive animal health planning, routine certified veterinary inspections and other routine diagnostics to support the region. In addition, education of clients who are new owners of food producing and hobby animals will be critical to protecting their own, their animals', the public's health and be a key resource in early detection of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) in a high risk area.

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).

Current food animal veterinarians supporting this area have retired. It will be difficult to adequately support a salary for a veterinarian who has a significant (+\$100,000) student loan debt. 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 food animal veterinary medicine. New veterinarians are drawn to small animal practices in urban areas with significantly higher salary offerings. A food animal veterinarian providing services to other veterinary sectors in this area is a means of achieving a financially viable practice.

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 of Washington includes a mix of traditional livestock and poultry production, emerging small acreage and backyard hobby farms owned and operated by novices and organic producers, and has a demographic which includes urban, suburban, rural, seasonal and tourist populations. Arguably it is a region with enhanced risk of disease emergence and public health challenges, yet is severely underserved by the food animal veterinary community. Areas of

concern and risks, particularly given the mixed agricultural base of the community, include traditional regulated diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, avian influenza and trichomoniasis (recently re-emergent in Washington State), and introduction of exotic and foreign animal diseases. The necessity of vigilant surveillance and active prevention of trichomoniasis and other FAD's is inherently obvious, and the need to protect against and test for zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis and to avert the economically devastating consequences of such diseases must be of priority. A practitioner in the area would significantly enhance on farm presence to incorporate and provide FAD surveillance such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza in their daily work. In addition, rural communities often "grow their own food source". Many residents of Western Washington raise small numbers of cattle, poultry and ruminants. Providing adequate food animal veterinary care for these animals is critical to the health of the rural-urban Washington family and the public.

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.

N/A, NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreements at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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