

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

## Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to 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 shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site ([www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp)) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Arkansas (Entire State)  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area  
 (or Location of Position if Type III): Little Rock, AR 72215  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage:       Moderate Priority       High Priority       Critical Priority

### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

**Type I Shortage: Private Practice**  
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

**Must cover**(check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**  
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

**Must cover** (check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)  
 Employer: University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service  
 Position Title: Veterinarian

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Interdisciplinary  
Veterinary Medicine

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling 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).

According to the National Agricultural Statistic Service (January 31, 2014), Arkansas cattle and calves numbers and beef cow numbers are up 4% compared to 2013. This is at a time when all US cattle and calve number are down 2% and beef cow numbers are down 1%. In addition Arkansas beef replacements are up 6.2% whereas US beef replacement numbers are up only 2%. The majority of the cattle herds in Arkansas are herds of 50 head or less with the average herd size of 38 head.

Producer education is the key to a more informed livestock audience that will continue to produce a safe and wholesome product. The Arkansas livestock producers respect and look towards the Cooperative Extension service for unbiased research based information to assist them in making management decision. The Extension Veterinarian is responsible for providing statewide leadership in the development and implementation of Extension veterinary educational programs designed to improve the health and bio-security of livestock. Educational programs will be directed to practicing veterinarians, producers, and professionals working with livestock producers and organizations.

Without a school of Veterinarian Medicine in Arkansas a statewide Extension Veterinarian is critical center point for education, research and information.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The Extension Veterinarian collaborates with an interdisciplinary team of Extension faculty, research scientists and others to evaluate and deliver effective, integrated veterinarian educational programs. The Veterinarian serves as a resource person for county Extension faculty and program planning committees for veterinary programs. The Veterinarian has 4-H responsibilities and will direct the 4-H Veterinary Science Program including volunteer leader training. The Veterinarian works with veterinarian associations, commodity committees and others to develop youth and adult educational programs and serves in a liaison capacity between the Division of Agriculture and state agencies and organizations involved with animal health activities.

The Extension Veterinarian is responsible for developing effective Extension programs, factsheets, bulletins, articles for electronic news letters, developing web content, and other internet-based educational methods.

The Extension Veterinarian obtains and interprets research information, anticipates changing trends and develops programs to address those changes. The Veterinarian is knowledgeable of adult education principles and techniques, program planning process and has the ability to work effectively with a variety of professional and lay audiences. The Extension Veterinarian must communicate and convey ideas to faculty, stakeholder groups, and clientele plus be knowledgeable of social, economic, political and cultural factors affecting adult and youth learning.

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 Extension Veterinarian was position on May 1, 2013 and only eight applications were received. The selection committee selected three for an interview, but one withdrew due to another job offer. Therefore, two were interviewed. After interviewing the two applicants, it was concluded neither were qualified for the position. The position was re-advertized on August 22, 2013. From August 22, 2013 until February 28, 2014 only one application was received (Dr. Jason Cater) even after three additional Veterinarians were recruited. Dr. Cater credentials fulfilled the job requirements and, therefore, he was interviewed.

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 this veterinarian position not being secured or retained means a statewide educational void for livestock producers. Without this position unbiased research based veterinarian science information will not be provided to livestock producers, stakeholders, veterinarians, youth groups, etc. This would have a major impact in the production of safe and wholesome foods and the biosecurity of livestock. The loss of a veterinarian position would be critical as the Arkansas beef cattle industry begins to rebuild following the drought of 2012. Animal disease control is very much in the forefront as livestock are purchased and transported into Arkansas.

The 4-H Veterinary Science Program would be delayed tremendously. This would impact the young scientists and leaders of tomorrow. The program would continue but the credibility and leadership of the program would be in doubt.

As livestock producers become more educated in herd health, they will seek out the advice and services of a private veterinarian. An Extension Veterinarian should play an important role in educating livestock producers in herd health. Without an Extension Veterinarian, educating livestock producers will not occur, therefore, the demand of a private veterinarian will not increase and may possibly be decreased.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

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**Minimum Service time required for each shortage type**

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: George Pat Badley

Title: AR State Veterinarian

Organization: Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission

Email: pbadley@alpc.ar.gov

Telephone Number: 501-907-2433  
(Area code required)

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, OGF, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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