

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) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

State of Arizona

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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): 1688 West Adams Street Phoenix, AZ 85007

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [ ] Moderate Priority [ ] High Priority XX 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: \_\_\_\_\_

XX Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

Employer: \_State of Arizona\_ Position Title: \_\_Asst. State Veterinarian\_\_

Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas:

- XX Food Safety XX Public Health XX Epidemiology XX Other: Emergency Preparedness, Administration

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).

The objective of this position is to help to recruit and retain a public practice veterinarian for the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) and/or the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). The following positions are currently vacant or recently filled and would qualify for consideration under this Type III Shortage and are full time employees.

Arizona Assistant State Veterinarian (ADA)

Arizona Public Health Veterinarian (ADHS)

Currently, the Arizona Department of Health Services does not have a Public Health Veterinarian on staff. As a result, the overall responsibilities of the State Veterinarians Office have increased considerably with more emphasis on addressing disease surveillance, prevention and control needs related to zoonotic diseases, emergency preparedness, and other public health concerns. These increased demands have not been met with increased staff positions due to budget constraints. In addition, the international border with Mexico presents a higher risk of disease introduction that could result in an outbreak of disease affecting livestock and/or the public.

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 Assistant State Veterinarian duties include: direct supervision of field personnel at livestock markets, metropolitan areas and rural areas where they are engaged in activities of prevention and detection of animal diseases; investigation of suspected animal neglect and cruelty; performing meat and poultry inspection activities and collection of diagnostic and surveillance samples at slaughter plants; performing investigations of animal disease outbreaks suspected of being a foreign animal disease; works with livestock producers on food safety quality assurance, bio-security, environmental quality assurance and emergency preparedness. The Public Health Veterinarian is responsible for the oversight of surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic diseases of public health importance. They provide veterinary and epidemiologic expertise to public health officials, animal control agencies, veterinarians and others on zoonotic and other diseases. All work with colleagues in other states and Mexico.

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 Department of Agriculture has a difficult time trying to find qualified veterinarians to fill the vacant Assistant State Veterinarian positions in the department. The Department of Health Services has not listed the Public Health Veterinarian position as open. Recently, the two Assistant State Veterinarian positions have been filled. Retention of these staff members remains a concern. Availability of the VMLRP might improve the likelihood that the newly hired veterinarians continue their work in the State Veterinarian's Office.

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).

Maintaining disease free herds and flocks is critical to maintaining market access for live animals and consumer confidence in meat, milk and eggs. Maintaining close cooperation on zoonotic disease

surveillance, prevention and control is critical to the health and agriculture departments. This cooperation extends to local health departments, other state departments including Sonora, Mexico, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every effort must be made to recruit and retain veterinary public health expertise in this international border state that is also home to 21 Tribal Nations. Accredited food animal veterinarians and public practice veterinarians form a seamless regulatory system that ensures the herd and flock health that allows for the sale of live animals and animal derived products in local, national and international markets. This seamless veterinary infrastructure also protects public health, enhances food safety and security and better prepares the state and region to respond to any emergency that affects the human and animal populations.

(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.

100 %

**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

**XX** By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

**XX** 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: Perry Durham, DVM

Title: Arizona State Veterinarian

Organization: Arizona Department of Agriculture  
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(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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