

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

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Mineral, Rio Grande and Saquache Counties, Colorado
(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): Monte Vista, Colorado 81321
(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: _____ Position Title: _____

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: _____

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 main objective of a veterinarian in this rural area would be to alleviate the veterinary practitioner shortage that exists. They would work to sustain livestock industries and promote animal health in three southwestern Colorado counties; Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache. These counties have more than 45,000 food animals including a significant concentration of cow/calf operations and sheep flocks in an area that is almost 5000 sq. miles wide. Meeting this objective will improve food safety, animal health and public health.

The second objective would be to increase disease surveillance in this area. These counties make up the southwestern most point of Colorado. Distance, terrain and limited government personnel resources all diminish the ability to monitor both state and national diseases. Having an additional veterinarian in these areas increases the ability for surveillance and helps the state identify and mitigate disease outbreaks sooner.

The third objective would be to recognize foreign animal disease outbreaks in the area. This position will participate as a member of the Colorado Veterinary Response team. An additional veterinarian helps to maintain resiliency of Colorado livestock and the nation's food supply in the event of an outbreak.

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 veterinary activities needed by the livestock producers in this three county area include:

- Provision of emergency veterinary services such as livestock health care needs resulting from acute illness, trauma, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties
- Provision of routine veterinary services such as vaccination, castration or dehorning
- Consultation in health care programs and nutrition
- Disease diagnostics for routine illness
- Utilizing official animal identification for good traceability
- Disease surveillance and diagnostics for state and federal program diseases and for foreign animal diseases
- Completion of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that meets all animal health testing requirements needed in order to ship livestock for healthier interstate commerce
- Provision of reproduction management consultation and services
- Participates as a member of the Colorado Veterinary Response team to help protect the nation's food supply.

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).

Veterinarians in these areas have utilized the national Veterinary Career Network and Colorado Veterinary Medical Association to entice veterinarians to this underserved area. Despite this, graduate veterinarians have seen little incentive to practice within this area. This area faces additional shortage with ½ of the established veterinarians approaching retirement. There is a great desire by the local community to add additional veterinary services before these veterinarians retire. By offering monetary incentive and debt relief through the VMLRP, local practices will be able to provide additional incentives to veterinarians.

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 risks associated with a lack of available veterinary services within a reasonable proximity of a producer's location in these areas could include:

- A greater prevalence of disease, which increases reproductive losses, increases the morbidity and mortality of food animals and leads to monetary loss for the producer and the community.
- The potential for the establishment and spread of a foreign animal disease due to the lack of timely surveillance and participation in Colorado emergency management activities
- The potential for the establishment and spread of a program or zoonotic disease due to the lack of timely surveillance and diagnostics
- A lack of the facilitation of interstate movement of animals through the issuance of a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or commuter agreements

- Adulteration of food products due to the producer’s lack of knowledge on the proper use of pharmaceuticals and veterinary biologic products
- Increased production costs resulting from a lack of consultation on nutrition, proper herd management and routine disease control
- With little veterinary presence in the area the detection of FAD or lesser disease outbreak may increase the spread of disease especially into neighboring states Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

(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.

%

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: Keith A. Roehr, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

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