VMLRP Shortage ID Code TX141

NIFA

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
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Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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: Wheeler and Collingsworth counties, Texas Panhandle
(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): Junction of US Hwy 152 and Hwy 83, Wheeler, TX
(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)	**May cover**
❑ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ 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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	☒ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ 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).

Having adequate veterinary presence in the area is very important to the residents of these two counties. Thirty years ago there were two veterinarians in Shamrock, TX, one in Wellington, and one in McLean – all within this geographic area. None of these communities has a local veterinarian now. The two veterinarians in Wheeler are approaching retirement age. Failure to establish a younger practitioner to serve this community will exacerbate an already existing shortage. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture and 2008 AVMA statistics, these counties have a high ratio of food animals to food animal veterinarians. The veterinarian's objectives would be to educate and assist producers in developing and maintaining production practices that consider animal welfare, environmental concerns, efficiency and food safety. Serving as the first level of surveillance for foreign and emerging diseases such as food and mouth disease, viral, bacterial and prion diseases in multiple species would be crucial.

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 veterinarian filling the shortage in this area would provide medical and surgical services to residents of Wheeler and Collingsworth counties in the Texas Panhandle. Examination, diagnosis and treatment of dairy and beef cattle, as well as small ruminants, swine and any other species presented to the veterinarian would be basic duties. Services would specifically include consultation with herd owners to ensure food safety through proper use of biological and antibiotics, and improved livestock husbandry practices. The veterinarian would also provide preventive medicine and reproductive/obstetrical services in both large and small animals. Other vital services would include early detection of reportable diseases, as well as other regulatory services such as interstate movement and change of ownership testing for a variety of regulatory disease programs, writing health certificates, and vaccinations. The veterinarian would be accredited for large animal work with USDA Veterinary Services, and provide support to a variety of USDA and state regulatory disease programs such as bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. Quality assurance education and consultation, animal welfare education, and food safety consultation are other key activities.

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).

Ongoing recruitment efforts have included student interviews both at Texas A&M and Oklahoma State. Up to now, these efforts have been unsuccessful. A local practice is providing externships to several students, and hopes to develop a relationship with a suitable candidate through these efforts soon. The cost of living in this area is well below the national average, and so it may be difficult to offer salaries that would seem competitive on a national level. Designation of this area through the VMLRP program would assist in recruiting and retaining a young veterinarian in this area.

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).

Without a sufficient number of veterinarians in the area, residents are forced to either drive extended distances for veterinary services or do without the services. Owners of livestock may have to perform procedures that are beyond their abilities. Without veterinary supervision, producers are more likely to misuse antibiotics which could lead to food safety issues. Failure to attract a veterinarian to this region could result in producers being deprived of timely services, causing them economic losses as well as animal suffering due to delayed diagnosis and treatment of disease. While larger operations in the area are often well-managed and provide a wholesome and safe food supply, their needs may leave a limited number of practitioners with little time to assist smaller clients who really require more education on the care of their livestock. The economic impact of animal agriculture to this area is profound according to the current Texas Almanac, with fed cattle, cow-calf operations, stocker cattle,

swine and horses contributing to a total market value of agriculture in these two counties of over $180 million. In the worst-case scenario, delayed diagnosis of a reportable disease could allow it to spread widely before being contained. This could have disastrous consequences for producers, the state, and the country in terms of international trade implications.

(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: Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA (point of contact Holly Hughes-Garza, DVM)

Title: State Veterinarian/Executive Director

Organization: Texas Animal Health Commission

Email: comments@tahc.texas.gov

Telephone Number: 800-550-8242 x718
(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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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