

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: Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Hartley & Moore 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): Intersection of Hwy 54 and Hwy 87, Dalhart, Texas
(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).

A veterinarian in this area would be on the frontline of food safety, human and animal health protection. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture and the 2008 AVMA database, the concentration of food animals in Dallam, Hansford, Hartley and Moore counties is 963,817. This is equivalent to 87,619 animals per veterinarian. Since those reports, the listed counties have seen tremendous growth in the dairy sector. Dallam County is home to a cheese manufacturing plant that expanded to accommodate 4.5 million pounds of milk per day, as per company representatives. It is estimated that between 2007 and 2010, approximately 47,300 dairy animals were added to the above listed counties. Local practices report dairy work has increased even more in the last 2 years due to expansion of existing dairies. Veterinarians already practicing in this area have stated that three additional veterinarians could spend one hundred percent of their time in food animal practice. Additionally, a future need for food animal veterinarians, projected to be two to three veterinarians per year, is necessary to sustain the projected growth in the dairy industry. The awardee should expect to spend a minimum of 80% of their time doing beef and dairy work.

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 skill set needed to interact with the progressive clientele of dairy, feedlot and swine is unique. A veterinarian must have experience with population medicine and understand epidemiology in order to design proper preventative vaccination, treatment and training programs for employees. Additionally, veterinarians must be able to analyze records to identify health and production trends as well as develop partial budgets for new interventions. At the same time, veterinarians must be engaged with the daily routines of the farm and handle routine work such as pregnancy determination, surgery, emergency calls and all regulatory duties. This would include performing duties as a USDA accredited veterinarian, participation in state regulatory programs and reportable disease surveillance. This practitioner would be expected to serve as a first line of defense against foreign animal disease. There may be opportunities for a veterinarian to join an existing practice in this 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).

Veterinarians in the area report difficulty in recruiting since at least 2004. Multiple practices have attempted to recruit to meet growing demand, as well as replace retiring veterinarians in recent years. A variety of means have included advertisement and working with the Texas A&M Veterinary School. There is a five-year-old summer veterinary student internship program, and opportunities for senior veterinary students to participate in resident externships throughout the year. A veterinarian received a VMLRP award in this area in 2010 but has since left the area. Local input was provided that indicated an ongoing challenge in recruiting additional 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).

This region is vital to the supply of milk, beef and pork to the U.S. consumer. From the perspective of food safety, veterinarians in this area participate in drug residue avoidance. While the high concentration of animals in this area provides efficiencies in producing a safe and affordable food product, the potential for widespread devastation from a foreign or emerging disease is high. Specific concerns include avian & swine influenza, foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever. Additionally, disease eradication efforts including Brucellosis and Tuberculosis require constant attention. As this area encompasses the northern border of the panhandle region, interstate movement of animals is a constant activity so a larger region of the US is really served by this veterinarian. Private practitioners play a crucial role in detection of possible foreign animal disease. Delay of

even 24-48 hours in detection of a foreign animal disease in this area could have crippling effects on the US economy as well as causing widespread restrictions on international trade.

(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, OGF, 800 9th 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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