

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

Southern Johnson County, Wyoming

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): Kaycee, WY 82639

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

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

[X] 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)

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

May cover

- [ ] Beef Cattle [X] Dairy Cattle [X] Swine [X] 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).

According to the AVMA website (Dec. 2008), Johnson County, WY contains 77,192 food animals and 3 practicing food animal veterinarian (average of 25,731 food animals/veterinarian). This is a better ratio than many areas, however, the statistics are misleading, particularly for the southern part of the county. Johnson County includes 4,174 square miles (<http://www.johnsoncountyywoming.org/about.html>), and only one veterinarian in the southern half of the county (Kaycee, WY). Dr. Christensen has wished to retire for over two years, but wants someone to take his place. While several veterinarians are interested, they are unable to do so without student loan assistance.

We hope that a new veterinarian will assist producers in the area meet their regulatory requirements, preventative medicine needs and help them when disease outbreaks occur. Many producers complain that they cannot find a veterinarian to carry out regulatory veterinary requirements or other routine veterinary needs.

We expect this new veterinarian to commit at least 40% FTE hours to food animal medicine (16 hours/week). They may not be able to dedicate much more than that simply due to the rural nature of the area and the expectation that species will be served. There is only one veterinary clinic in the area; it must be prepared to handle all cases.

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).

Kaycee, WY and the surrounding area of southern Johnson County is located in rural Wyoming in an area rich with western culture and history. There are great outdoor opportunities, including world class hunting, fishing, and rock climbing. While large animal veterinary services are desperately needed there, the income potential is much lower than most areas of the United States. Thus, it is impossible for any young veterinarian to consider practicing near Kaycee if they have much of a debt load.

Due to the impending retirement of Dr. Christensen, the only veterinarian in the county, and the high number of food animals, there is a great need for food animal services. He confirmed that when he retires, no one will offer food animal services in the area for most of the year. Based on that discussion, the discussion with producers in the area we believe a veterinarian should offer pregnancy diagnoses and other reproductive services and consultation. Additionally, there is a need for diagnostic services and infectious disease and nutrition/toxicology management and consultation in addition to regulatory services.

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 state of Wyoming instituted a student loan repayment program to recruit new food animal veterinarians moving into underserved areas in 2008. Southern Johnson County was identified as such an area. We were successful in recruiting a few veterinarians into two surrounding counties (Bighorn and Washakie) in 2009/10. However, we have not been able to attract anyone into Johnson County to date. We believe this is due to the limited assistance our program provides, and the economic realities of southern Johnson County which make it less attractive than other areas of the state.

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 current food animal veterinary work force is unable to meet the demand in southern Johnson County Wyoming, and the problem will get much worse when Dr. Christensen retires. Kaycee is very isolated; there are no other veterinarians for 50-100 miles. Johnson County is sparsely populated with 7,721 people in the entire county, and it is economically depressed. The producers in the area are unable to deal with livestock disease issues; ultimately this may force them out of business. This would not only reduce the nation's supply of beef and lamb, but many of these existing ranches would subsequently be sold and subdivided. This would impact the region, state, and nation as the area is considered a national treasure for its abundance of wildlife and western heritage. Such development would have a great and irreversible impact on the wildlife and other natural resources of the area.

Although it is a small community, the area does have rodeos, bull sales, other livestock events and a fair amount of tourism. The state veterinarian is concerned about animal rights groups undermining these events by introducing an infectious disease. With no veterinarians in the area, it would be impossible to manage such an outbreak.

(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: Dr. Jim Logan

Title: Wyoming State Veterinarian

Organization: Wyoming Livestock Board  
Jim.logan@wyo.gov

Email: (307) 777-7515

Telephone Number: (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.