Shortage ID AZ204
VMLRP USE ONLY

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0050
Expiration Date: 12/31/2022

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: Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz, AZ
(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): Sierra Vista, AZ 85600
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

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: eqine, camelids

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

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

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

(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 above, 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.

[ ] %

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 1500 characters).

This position will ensure food animal veterinary expertise is available for the farming and ranching region that forms part of the Arizona international border with Mexico. Applicants for this position should be willing to provide veterinary service for the listed species in this region which includes private land, state trust range land, federal range land and tribal communities. This region contains a major portion of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation which extends into the state of Sonora, Mexico. Applicants should be aware of the disease risks and plant toxicities associated with the border region and the increased health risks of international livestock, poultry and bird importation. The successful applicant will be offered training to become a member of the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT). ALIRT veterinarians are trained and equipped as first responders to adverse livestock health events.

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 1500 characteers or less).

The following activities are for range beef cow-calf practice servicing Arizona producers, the majority of which have spring calving cowherds. This work is seasonal mostly performed in the fall and spring months. Spring: assist with dystocia; consultation on cow herd, herd bull and calf immunization and parasite control strategies; herd bull fertility exams including collection of samples for trichomoniasis lab analysis; Fall: pregnancy test cows; administer immunizations and parasite control; official calf hood vaccination of heifer calves; health certification for interstate shipment. Dairy practice in the region is growing rapidly with currently 80,000 head. Dairy projections are to be over 160,000 head in 3 years. Continuous activities focus on herd health and nutrition for the lactating herd and dry cows; herd bull management; calf rearing and managing replacement heifers; intensive management of calving intervals; immunization strategies; individual cow treatments; tuberculosis testing and brucellosis testing; health certification for interstate shipments; milk quality testing; official calf hood vaccination of heifer calves. Most of the swine, poultry, small ruminant and feed lot operations in the region are owned by individuals that may request live animal exams, necropsies and diagnostics. Two of the states's five public food animal livestock markets are located in the region.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

Practicing veterinarians have assisted other veterinarians to establish practices in the region in hopes of getting help with food animal work. But in the last several years, most of the of the new practices have evolved to focus mainly on small animal and equine practice. One ALIRT veterinarian stated, “We have plenty of vets to see pets and horses but we don’t have anyone that will make calls to see cattle or hogs.”

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 2000 characters 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. Accredited food animal practitioners are the key veterinarians that ensure the herd and flock health that allows for the sale of live animals and animal derived products in local, national and international markets. Public investment to reverse the trend of declining numbers of food animal veterinarians is supported by the food animal practitioners within Arizona. They realize the risk to herd and flock health, to the marketplace, to livestock welfare, and to food safety and security if their numbers continue to decline. Practitioners also realize the critical role of the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team. Illegal entry of animals and animal products in this international border region increases the risk of the introduction of a foreign animal disease. As stated before, a tribal community in the region lies within both Mexico and the US. Most recent NASS report of region livestock inventory: all cattle 83,000 head, all sheep and lambs 1,000 head. Securing and retaining a veterinarian in this area is becoming critical due to the implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive leaving producers without ability to obtain treatment for their animals.

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: Peter Mundschenk DVM

Title: Arizona State Veterinarian

Organization: AZ Department of Agriculture

Email: pmundschenk@azda.gov

Telephone Number: 602-542-0960
(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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