

# 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](http://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:           **Kiowa, Baca, and Prowers 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):           **Lamar, Colorado 81052**            
(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).

*Veterinarians not only manage the health of livestock but aid state and federal agencies in tracking livestock movement as well as mitigate disease outbreaks which can decimate not only livestock but also local economies making the veterinarian a linchpin for the community. Our objective is to find veterinarians that will provide access to animal health services for livestock to help in the early detection of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases affecting livestock and small animals; the seamless integration of animal and human health awareness and response throughout the community; and effective local and regional disease surveillance and reporting to support state and national disease monitoring efforts. Meeting this objective will improve food safety, animal health and public health, and will help Colorado maintain resiliency to outbreaks of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases.*

*This three county area is approximately 5900 square miles and has 137 livestock farms that maintain over 100,000 head of cattle. Livestock represent 80% of all agricultural sales in this very rural and underserved area of the state. This large rural tri-county area has approximately one livestock veterinarian per 20,000 animals which will make it difficult to meet the anticipated increase in veterinary needs and demands.*

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 area include:*

- *Provision of emergency veterinary services; for example livestock health care needs resulting from acute illness, trauma, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties*
- *Provision of routine veterinary services; for example vaccination, castration or dehorning*
- *Consultation in health care programs and nutrition*
- *Disease diagnostics for routine illness*
- *Disease surveillance and diagnostics for state and federal program diseases and for foreign animal diseases*
- *Completion of certificates of veterinary inspection and animal health testing requirements needed in order to ship livestock in interstate commerce*
- *Provision of reproduction management consultation and 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).

*It is hard to attract veterinarians to this very rural location of the state where there are less than five people per square mile. Financial incentives through the VMLRP will make this practice area more attractive and once they come and see the need and the quality of life present here, there is a greater chance that veterinarians will want to practice here for the long term and put down roots. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has reached out to producers and practicing veterinarians to assess veterinary needs as well as to educate veterinarian and students about the opportunities.*

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).

*Securing qualified veterinarians in this location is critical to building and revitalizing local economies. Meeting this objective will improve food safety and protect animal and public health. The large area of these counties combined with limited state and federal veterinary personnel resources diminishes the ability to do adequate disease surveillance. Having an additional veterinarian in this area increases the surveillance capabilities and helps the state to identify and mitigate disease outbreaks sooner.*

*The risks associated with a lack of available veterinary services within a reasonable proximity of a producer's location in this three county area could include:*

- *A greater prevalence of disease, which increases the morbidity and mortality of food animals*
- *Reproductive losses, which would result in a 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*

(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

Email: [Keith.Roehr@state.co.us](mailto:Keith.Roehr@state.co.us)

Telephone Number: 303-869-9130  
(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.

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