

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: Kit Carson, Cheyenne, and Lincoln 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): Burlington, Colorado 80807
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [x] 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: _____

[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
[x] Dairy Cattle
[x] Swine
[] Poultry
[x] 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).

The main objective for bringing in a new veterinarian and sustaining them in this area is to improve the access to veterinary services for local farmers and ranchers and improve animal health in rural Kit Carson, Cheyenne, and Lincoln Counties. The three counties cover approximately 6,515 sq. miles. There are more than 254,000 food animals in the county with significant cow/calf, swine, sheep, and goat operations. There is currently one veterinarian for every 50,000 food animals in the area and this ratio is expected to increase with existing veterinarians approaching retirement. Meeting this objective will improve food safety and protect animal and public health. The second objective would be to increase disease surveillance in this area. The large area of these counties combined with limited state and federal veterinary personnel resources diminishes the ability to monitor for emerging and foreign animal diseases. Having an additional veterinarian in this area increases the surveillance capabilities and helps the state to identify and mitigate disease outbreaks sooner. Therefore, the third objective is to increase the ability to recognize and respond to emerging and foreign animal disease outbreaks in the area more quickly and effectively.

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 this three county area include:

- *Provision of emergency veterinary services such as livestock health care needs resulting from acute illness, trauma, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties*
- *Provision of routine veterinary services such as vaccination, castration or dehorning*
- *Consultation in health care programs and nutrition*
- *Disease diagnostics for routine illness*
- *Utilizing official animal identification for good traceability*
- *Disease surveillance and diagnostics for state and federal program diseases and for foreign animal diseases*
- *Completion of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that meets all animal health testing requirements needed in order to ship livestock for healthier interstate commerce*
- *Provision of reproduction management consultation and services*
- *Participates as a member of the Colorado Veterinary Response team to help protect the nation's food supply.*

There has been interest by new veterinary graduates to practice in this area as they realize the need for food animal veterinary services and also recognize the present age of those veterinarians servicing the eastern two counties of this shortage area. This new area comprises counties that border Kansas and has great veterinary needs due to the abundance of food animals and the difficulty of attracting food animal veterinarians to 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).

Their load of veterinary student debt versus salaries of food animal veterinarians makes practicing in this rural area very hard. The area is recognized by local and state cattlemen associations as an area of need for veterinary services. This area faces additional veterinary shortages as established veterinarians approach retirement. There is a great desire by communities in this area to bring in a new food animal practice veterinarian before this happens. The VMLRP is a great new incentive for a veterinarian to get established in this area, build their career, and to help create sustainability for their veterinary work.

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 risks associated with a lack of available veterinary services within a reasonable proximity of a producer's location in this Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne county area could include:

- *A greater prevalence of disease, which increases reproductive losses, increases the morbidity and mortality of food animals and leads to 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*
- *With little veterinary presence in the area the detection of FAD or lesser disease outbreak may increase the spread of disease.*

(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

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 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.