VMLRP Shortage ID Code CO156

NIFA **NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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: **Montrose, Delta, and Mesa 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): **Delta, Colorado 81416**
(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)	**May cover**
❑ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ 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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ 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).

Montrose, Delta, and Mesa counties of western Colorado comprise about 6,300 square miles. This area has over 150,000 food animals; currently there are veterinarians serving this area but the size of the area they cover and the number of food animals that they provide for stretches their resources and ability to provide good veterinary service. Retirement of key veterinarians in the area in near future will further reduce community access to veterinary services and yet the demand for veterinary services is growing. In addition, the older veterinarians in this area provide some preventive veterinary services but are often unavailable for after-hours or emergency work which creates vulnerabilities for animal health. Our objective is to find veterinarians that will provide access to animal health services 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.

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 Delta, Garfield and Mesa county 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*

A veterinarian who practices in a county to the north of this area (Garfield County) was accepted into the VMLRP program last year. Because of restrictions that mountain passes impose on practice areas, this new area is really a separate geographical area and has extensive veterinary needs of its own that the veterinarian accepted into the program last year cannot provide due to the region's geography.

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).

A recent graduate veterinarian in the area has been actively been working in a local practice and desires to settle here permanently and focus all of their effort on food animal veterinary services. Their load of student debt versus what they are making as a food animal veterinarian makes staying and practicing in this rural area very difficult. Monetary incentives like loan repayment will help to keep this veterinarian in the area and allow them to dedicate their career to providing food animal veterinary services in this area

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 *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

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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016