

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: Conejos and Rio Grande Counties
(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): La Jara, Colorado 81140
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High 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)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

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).

Conejos and Rio Grande Counties have a combined 2,203 square miles within their borders and contain 63,913 food animals. There are only 3 food animal veterinarians in this two-county area with a ratio of 21,304 food animals per veterinarian. The targeted food animal veterinary service will be predominantly for beef cattle producers in this area along with some sheep and wool-growers. Based on the AVMA Veterinary Workforce Study of 2013, this area should have over 3 full time veterinarians just for the cattle population in this area. Considering that the existing veterinarians only spend 35% of their time with food animal veterinary medicine, this area at the minimum needs an additional 2 food animal veterinarians. The veterinarian that is successful in serving this shortage will only spend 35% of their time on food animals so even by filling this shortage, there is still a big need within this two-county area. Our objective is to find a additional veterinarian that will provide access to animal health services for livestock; help in the early detection of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases; integrate animal and human health awareness and response throughout the community; and conduct disease surveillance and reporting to support state and national animal health 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 1500 characters or less).

The veterinary activities needed by the livestock producers in this Conejos and Rio Grande 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 (CVIs) 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 750 characters or less).

A recent graduate veterinarian has actively been working in the area and has the desire to stay in this location and focus the majority 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 hard. Monetary incentives like loan repayment will help to keep this veterinarian and their dedicated 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 2000 characters or less).

The risks associated with a lack of available veterinary services within a reasonable proximity of a producer's location in this Conejos and Rio Grande 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

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

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(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.