Shortage ID CO218
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 VMLRP Shortage Allocations section of the VMLRP web site (https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/vmlrp-shortage-allocations) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache 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): Del Norte, CO
(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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle	☒ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine	☒ Swine
☐ Poultry	☐ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____	☒ Other: 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 4,960 square mile area consists of 3 smaller counties that are considered half of the San Louis Valley There are about 24,000 people (and rapidly growing) with over 40,000 beef cows and calves, 150 dairy cows, and multiple goat and sheep ranches that total about 5,000 small ruminants as well as some swine and a handful of camelids. The area is served by one robust livestock auction. This area has a large 4H fair in August, boasts multiple FFA programs, and 2 universities - one of which has a pre-veterinary major. A veterinarian serving this area would need to be involved in all of these community programs. The area was listed as a shortage area two years ago and included a neighboring county. However, the Continental Divide is the border of that county and often makes traveling between the two areas impassable during the winter and the veterinarians in the neighboring county do not cross over in to this area. There are 5 full time and 2 part time mixed animal veterinarians who work on these livestock in the entire valley. In 2020, veterinarians in the area expressed a need for more than one additional food animal veterinarian to help cover the needs of the entire valley. The hope is that by splitting the larger area in half, there is potential to draw in 2 additional applicants, rather than just one.

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 veterinary activities needed by the livestock producers in this three 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

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).

This area hasn't had a lot of success in attracting new veterinarians interested in practicing large food animal. This is a very rural area and mountainous area of Colorado that is far from major metropolitan centers. Efforts have been made to hire additional veterinarians- one new vet has come to the SLV in the last 6 years (2018) while 4 have either passed away or retired. Of the 7 current vets servicing the food animal industry, two are 60 and one is 75 (and happens to be the only veterinarian who services the livestock auction). Ads have been posted on and off for several years with no applicants for the position of associate veterinarian.

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 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
- The inability to fulfill the requirements of the FDA Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) would likely result in the lack of administration of medically important antibiotics to the livestock in the area 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

Title: Colorado State Veterinarian

Organization: Colorado Dept. of Agriculture

Email: keith.roehr@state.co.us

Telephone Number: 303-869-9130
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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, 2312 East Bannister Road, Mail Stop 10,000, Kansas City, MO 64131, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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