

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: Ellsworth & Lincoln 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): Junction of I-70 and KS Highway 14
(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
[ ] Dairy Cattle
[ ] Swine
[ ] Poultry
[ ] Small Ruminant
[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

May cover

- [ ] Beef Cattle
[x] Dairy Cattle
[x] Swine
[ ] Poultry
[x] 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 State of Kansas expects an awardee selected for this shortage area to devote at least 30% of their professional efforts to food animal veterinary medicine. The primary objective of the awardee is to provide medical, surgical, and preventative services to clientele in the area. These services are becoming endangered due to low numbers of practicing veterinarians and impending retirements of current practitioners in the area. In areas such as this, where animal agriculture is a central industry, veterinarians serve as cornerstones. Their business provides jobs and their activities protect the careers of the producers they serve. Veterinarians under service commitments will potentially develop ties to the area and provide long term solutions to animal health and the local economy.

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).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation would be expected to interact with food animal producers through the establishment of preventative herd health programs and medical and surgical services. A type II shortage situation is requested (30% food animal practice) due to the seasonal nature of food animal veterinary practice in this area of Kansas. These seasonal activities may include, but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, calf processing (vaccination/dehorning/castration), and dystocia assistance. A veterinarian in this area would also be expected to serve in a regulatory capacity at the farm level participating in import/export activities, certificates of veterinary inspection and cooperative disease programs. The state of Kansas would anticipate a veterinarian in this area would serve as an advocate for animal agriculture through participation in activities such as local fairs, 4-H and public outreach (school presentations, etc.)

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).

There are currently practices hiring within the area with advertisements at the KSU – College of Veterinary Medicine and various professional organization (AABP, AASV) websites and newsletters. Additionally, the Lincoln County Economic Development office has tried (unsuccessfully) to recruit veterinarians. Due to the high cost of education, it is difficult to bring veterinarians into a rural practice area when urban area salaries are significantly higher. At least one veterinarian in this area desires to retire. A recent graduate has been hired. Retention of this individual and additional recruitment is important. Veterinarians in this area are willing to mentor a recent graduate.

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 proposed shortage area covers approximately 1400 sq. miles<sup>1</sup> with a cattle population of 69,000 animals<sup>2</sup>. There are 4 licensed veterinarians<sup>3</sup>, however, only three are actively practicing with another veterinarian expected to retire within the year. The cattle to practitioner ratio (after this retirement) will be 34,500:1. As this area serves primarily cow-calf producers and small feedlots, this is a dangerously high ratio given the travel time between calls.

As veterinarians are broadly trained in areas such as animal health/management, public health and food safety, the consequences of not securing a shortage situation for this area would be equally broad. The initial threat is economic. As the primary industry is agriculture, a veterinary practice creates jobs in the community, and it serves as a cornerstone to protect the viability of the local producers. Veterinary involvement in production agriculture ensures producers receive current recommendations for prevention and treatment of disease, ensure

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<sup>1</sup> [www.quickfacts.census.gov](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/.../County.../cattle12.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/.../County.../cattle12.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

food products are safely produced, and disease outbreaks (intentional or accidental) are recognized, reported and mitigated. A veterinary shortage in this area will jeopardize herd health and have a negative impact on the profitability of the operations and producers in this area. Finally, a veterinarian might not be called to observe a foreign animal or zoonotic disease that could detrimentally impact the health and economy of the area and possibly the state and the nation. A veterinarian in a local area is a valuable liaison for producers and regulatory officials.

(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.

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**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: William L. Brown DVM

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

Organization: Division of Animal Health, KS Dept of Ag

Email: [William.Brown@kda.ks.gov](mailto:William.Brown@kda.ks.gov)

Telephone Number: (785) 368-6491  
(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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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