

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: Grant, Haskell, Kearny & Stevens 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): Intersection of US Highway 160 and Kansas Highway 25 – Ulysses, KS
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [] High Priority [x] 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
[] 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).

An awardee selected for this shortage area is expected 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 increasingly difficult for cattle producers to obtain due to the nature of practice type in this area and a high animal to practitioner ratio. Additionally, an ABVP beef cattle diplomate recently left private practice and the dairy industry in this area has expanded.

The secondary objective of placing / retaining an awardee in this shortage area is to strengthen existing veterinary-client relationships. The service commitment required of awardees enables producers to work closely with a veterinarian to build long-term plans and goals for their livestock operation. As animal welfare, food safety and traceability continue to change production agriculture, the alliance between food animal veterinarians and producers will become increasingly important. These relationships would be an invaluable resource to regulatory agents in the event of an intentional/accidental foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak situation. The high number of concentrated feeding operations / dairy operations in this area translates to a high risk of targeting by bioterrorism.

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 area would be expected to interact with producers through the establishment of preventative and traditional services. A type II shortage situation is requested (30% food animal practice) due to the seasonal nature of food animal veterinary practice. These activities may include, but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, calf vaccination/dehorning/castration, dystocia assistance, preventative herd health programs, and individual animal care. Due to the close proximity of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, there is a high flow of animals to and from feedlots, livestock markets, and packing plants. Subsequently, a veterinarian in the 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.

Although companion animal practice activities cannot be used in fulfillment of VMLRP service requirements, the state of Kansas recognizes these professional activities play a vital role in the viability of a rural practice. We also believe an increased veterinary presence in this area will positively impact public health as a result of increased vaccination and sterilization (spay/neuter) compliance. Loan repayment incentives to qualified applicants will decrease the burden to work here.

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).

Practices within the area have attempted to hire associates by recruiting from the KSU – College of Veterinary Medicine and various professional organizations (AABP, AASV, Kansas VMA) websites and newsletters. These practices also seek preceptor veterinary students in hopes of attracting new graduates. Due to the high cost of student loans, it is difficult to attract and retain veterinarians into a rural setting when they can be hired elsewhere for \$10,000 to \$20,000 more per year.

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 2750 sq. miles¹ with a cattle population of 725,000 animals². Within this area, there are 12 licensed veterinarians³. The cattle to practitioner ratio (assuming all these veterinarians are food animal practitioners) is currently 60,458:1. This nomination area serves cow-calf producers, feedlots and dairy clientele. This is a dangerously high ratio given the number of production units and animals this encompasses and premise to premise travel time that is required. The state of Kansas believes this specific shortage area warrants this nomination.

As the primary industry in the area is agriculture, a veterinary practice (or one made more sustainable through this program) would serve as a cornerstone to protect the viability of the local producers. Currently, there are sufficient established veterinarians to mentor one or more recent graduates.

Veterinary involvement in the production system ensures that producers receive the most current recommendations for prevention and treatment of infectious disease, food production is safeguarded, and that disease outbreaks are recognized and reported.

If this area cannot recruit veterinarians, public health will be predictably threatened. Although companion animal practice activities cannot be used in fulfillment of VMLRP service requirements, the state of Kansas recognizes these professional activities play a vital role in BOTH the overall public health of the area (as a result of increased vaccination and sterilization (spay/neuter) compliance) AND the viability of the practice.

(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).

¹ www.quickfacts.census.gov

² http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2012.pdf

³ Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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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.

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