

# 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](http://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: Rawlins, Thomas, Decatur, Sheridan  
(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): Approximately 10 miles North of Rexford, KS or Approximately 25 miles Southwest of Oberlin, KS  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical 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).

An awardee selected for this shortage area is expected by the state of Kansas to devote at least 30% of their professional efforts to food animal veterinary medicine. Veterinary services are currently endangered in this area due to the high ratio of food animals to practitioners. The primary objective of the awardee is to provide medical, surgical and preventative service to clientele in the area. 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 food animal agriculture, the alliance between veterinarian and producer will become increasingly important. These relationships would be an invaluable resource to regulatory official in the event of an intentional/accidental foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. Additionally, two of these counties border Nebraska and there are thousands of cattle crossing the state line for grazing, livestock markets and slaughter purposes. With the onset of Trichomoniasis testing regulations in Kansas & Nebraska, it is vital to the livelihood of producers to have sufficient veterinarians.

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).

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, surgical and emergency services. A type II shortage situation is requested (30% food animal practice) due to the seasonal nature of food animal veterinary practice and concerns regarding the viability of an exclusive food animal practice this area of Kansas. These seasonal activities may include but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, calf processing (vaccination/dehorning/castration), dystocia assistance, preventative herd health programs and providing individual animal veterinary treatment. 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. Trichomoniasis is a reportable disease in Kansas. Veterinarians must be certified to perform official Trichomoniasis tests. This individual must be Trichomoniasis certified and APHIS Category II accredited. Issuing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and performing other regulatory procedures, such as caudal fold TB testing is expected. The state of Kansas would anticipate that 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 750 characters or less).

During the 2011 VMLRP cycle, an award was made to a veterinarian for the counties of Cheyenne, Sherman (west of this area), Rawlins and Thomas (overlap with this proposed area). The state of Kansas believes that due to the large number of animals and geographical area that the 2011 and the currently proposed area cover that the addition of a second VMLRP contracted veterinarian is warranted. The state of Kansas is aware of 2 recent graduates within the area that are active in their communities. Retention of these individuals or recruitment of others is essential to maintain sufficient veterinary coverage.

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 proposed shortage area covers approximately 3935 sq. miles<sup>1</sup> with a cattle population of 240,500 animals.<sup>2</sup> There are currently 13 Level II accredited veterinarians. However, three are employed at the veterinary technician training program, one does small animal/equine exclusive and one is retired, resulting in eight food animal veterinarians and a final animal:practitioner ration of 30,062:1. This is an area of Kansas with a large cow/calf population, a dairy and large feedlot. Furthermore, the population of the area has dropped from 17,431 in 2000 to 15,910 in 2012.<sup>1</sup> This is a downward trend of 8.73% in twelve years. It is imperative to retain individuals willing to live in this area.

If the veterinarian cannot be retained in this area, it will be necessary for established practitioners to either: 1) travel more extensively to service all food animal clients or 2) limit/refuse services to clients. Either option, ultimately results in decreased interaction between food animal producers and veterinarians. When veterinarians are not part of the food animal production system; food safety, animal welfare and endemic/epidemic disease mitigation are all at risk. As animal agriculture is a major economic industry in the state of Kansas, the negative impact of a breach of food safety, animal welfare or disease mitigation would be catastrophic, this impact would most certainly be felt locally and regionally, but would potentially affect related industries on a national / international level. A VMLRP designated position would provide practices with additional incentive to recruit/retain veterinarians to this area.

1 [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com)

2 [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/ff2012.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2012.pdf)

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

Telephone Number: 785-564-6614  
(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.