

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: Chautauqua, Elk and Greenwood 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): Howard, Kansas 67349
(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. 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.

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 agents in the event of an intentional/accidental foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak situation.

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 need to interact with food animal producers through the establishment of preventative herd health programs, 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. Kansas is a state of beef production, and in this shortage area beef production is predominately cow-calf or stocker-background operations. These seasonal activities may include: breeding soundness exams, reproductive support such as pregnancy examinations, calf vaccination/dehorning/castration, dystocia assistance, setting up preventative programs and providing individual animal veterinary treatment. In this area, there has already been a migration from veterinary-provided services in the areas of pregnancy exams and production medicine because of the inability to recruit and retain associates to replace a generation nearing retirement. 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 would be part of this position. Loan repayment incentives will reduce the pressure to be sustainable in the first few years of practice.

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).

Currently two practices are attempting to hire a new associate and one practice is for sale within the area. The practices attempting to hire have been understaffed for the past years and have been unsuccessful in hiring and retaining associates. There are also practices within the area owned by recent graduates who would greatly benefit from the security this award would provide. Due to the high cost of student loans, it is difficult to remain in a rural practice when they can be hired elsewhere for \$10,000 to \$15,000 more per year. At least one veterinarian is driving to a small animal practice in the Wichita area and another left practice to work for Westar (electrical company).

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).

This area covers approximately 2429 sq. miles with a cattle population of 121,500 animals.¹ There are 11 licensed Category II accredited veterinarians. However, only three are actively practicing large animal medicine. Two do small animal & equine practice exclusively. Two others are involved in family agriculture operations. Additionally two are retired and three are employed in other occupations. The cattle to food animal practitioner ratio is 40,500:1. As this area serves cow-calf producers, small ruminant clientele, and background/feeding operations this is a high ratio given the number of farms. Additionally, cattle production, multiple sheep and goat flocks, and farmed cervid operations make this an area of importance when dealing with reportable or foreign animal diseases. It is imperative to have a knowledgeable veterinary population to detect such incursions promptly. Multiple foreign animal disease investigations are performed locally every year and reportable disease incidents, such as Trichomoniasis present challenges to producers.

As agriculture is the primary industry, a more sustainable veterinary practice serves as a cornerstone for the viability of the local producers. Veterinary involvement ensures: current recommendations for prevention and treatment of disease, safe food production, and recognition and reporting of disease outbreaks.

If this area cannot recruit / retain veterinarians, public health may be threatened. Although companion animal practice cannot be used in fulfillment of VMLRP requirements, Kansas recognizes these professional activities play a role in BOTH overall public health AND viability of the practice.

¹ 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 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.