

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: Riley County, Ks and surrounding regions
(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): 1800 Denison Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66506
(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 III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/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: Kansas State University Position Title: Veterinary Epidemiologist

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: FAD prevention/response

(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.

70 %

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 shortage situation demonstrates a critical need for a veterinarian with advanced training in epidemiology and infectious/foreign animal diseases (FADs) to work directly between the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and veterinarians, producers, and allied industries on the prevention, detection, and response to emerging/zoonotic/foreign animal disease incursions. Kansas has some of the nation's largest extensive/intensive livestock production systems that are critical to the nation's food supply. A recent study by Kansas State University researchers predicted that costs associated with a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the Midwestern U.S. could result in \$188B in losses to the livestock/allied industries and \$11B to the U.S. government. While full-time epidemiologists are a shortage within veterinary diagnostic labs and state animal health offices, their expertise is critical for protecting the nation's livestock from disease outbreaks. The incumbent will devote 70% time to 1) train veterinarians and others on incorporating epidemiology and related technology/tools in their daily activities to enhance FAD detection and response, 2) provide expertise to Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL) and KDA on epidemiological data collection and analysis to support informed decision-making; 3) disseminate results to key stakeholders. The incumbent will also work with KSVDL to further enhance engagement with the region's food animal industry.

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).

The veterinarian in this shortage situation would be engaged on a daily basis with practitioners, producers, and allied industries to address issues related to infectious and foreign animal diseases, food safety, zoonosis/public health, and state and national disease reporting and control strategies. In order to address these issues, the incumbent: 1) will consult with practitioners, diagnosticians, and others on appropriate investigation and surveillance strategies, 2) lead investigations or applied research into key issues as prioritized by Kansas stakeholders, 3) disseminate key findings through both local and regional venues. In addition, the incumbent will provide training opportunities for diagnosticians, practitioners, producers, and other current or future professionals so they understand the important epidemiologic concepts and FAD issues impacting food animal production systems. The veterinarian will contribute to the KSVDL mission as an expert epidemiologist, providing leadership on epidemiologic approaches applied to diagnostic data analysis and surveillance. The incumbent also will be actively engaged in committee and board activities to support the strategic direction of KSVDL and other Kansas entities, and will actively engage national organizations (e.g. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Homeland Security, agriculture industry interest groups) to enhance coordination between state and national efforts.

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).

Veterinarians with advanced (PhD) training in epidemiology and extensive experience addressing issues related to FADs in food animal production systems are very rare and nearly impossible to recruit and retain in academia/public practice. This is exacerbated when, in this case, we would prefer specific experience in food animal livestock systems, especially beef, and focus on applied research with outcomes measured by benefits to industry and government versus publications or other quantifiable metrics. Over the last 5-10 years, searches for similar positions have largely been unsuccessful. One current veterinary faculty member fits the shortage situation, however has been recruited intensively.

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).

A strong veterinary support system is critical for producers, food animal practitioners, and food animal industries within the state of Kansas and beyond. Most key issues related to food safety, public health, and animal health/welfare in commercial food production systems must be addressed, at least in part, with epidemiologic approaches. Thus, it is essential that Kansas has an appropriately qualified veterinary epidemiologist engaged in local, state and national plans to prepare for, and respond to FAD incursions and enhance animal, human, and environmental health. The risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained is very real. As mentioned above, the type of veterinarian needed is extremely rare, sought-after, and very difficult to recruit or retain. If KDA and KSVDL do not have such a person to work directly between them and practitioners, diagnosticians, and others on appropriate disease prevention/investigation/control and surveillance strategies, or to disseminate subsequent findings to stakeholders, there may be significant negative ramifications in efforts to protect the nation's food supply and enhance animal/human health. As the KSVDL strives to become more engaged with the beef industry – particularly important as Kansas beef production feeds the world and is the largest food animal industry in the state – there needs to be an epidemiologist with strong ties to this industry. The potential benefits of having a successful awardee engaged in this process over a three-year period (and perhaps beyond) would be tremendous for the beef industry, KSVDL, the state of Kansas, and much broader national and international communities.

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, Kansas Dept of Agriculture

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.