

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: Gray, Haskell, Meade 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): 207 North Aztec Street, Montezuma, KS 67867
(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 in this 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. These are difficult for cattle producers to obtain due to a high animal to practitioner ratio and distance. Additionally, an ABVP beef cattle diplomate recently left private practice.

The secondary objective of retaining an awardee in this 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 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 operation / dairy operations in this area translates to a high risk of targeting by bioterrorism. Two of these counties border Oklahoma, and there are thousands of cattle crossing the state line for grazing, livestock markets and slaughter purposes. It is vital for producers to have sufficient veterinarians. The VFD will require a VCPR with additional producers and impact the workload.

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 interact with producers through the establishment of preventative and emergency services. A type II shortage situation is requested due to the seasonal nature of food animal veterinary practice. These activities may include 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. Trichomoniasis is a reportable disease in Kansas, and this veterinarian must be certified to perform official Trichomoniasis tests and APHIS Category II Accredited. Issuing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and other regulatory procedures would be part of this position. Veterinary Feed Directives for feed grade antibiotics require a VCPR for individuals that may not have previously had a herd veterinarian. A sustained veterinary presence 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 750 characters 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. Retaining veterinarians willing to practice in rural areas become paramount importance. At least one recent graduate purchased a practice in the area, and the current veterinarian is active in the community, establishing roots and has a mentor.

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 2424 sq. miles with a cattle population of 701,000 animals and 14,527 humans. Within this area, there are 14 licensed veterinarians with Level 2 Accreditation. Two of these veterinarians do not work in private practice and a third is a regulatory veterinarian. The cattle to practitioner ratio then is actually 53,923:1. This nomination area serves cow-calf producers, feedlots and limited dairy and small ruminant clientele. This is a dangerously high ratio given the number of production units and animals this area encompasses and premises to premises 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.

If this area cannot recruit / retain veterinarians, public health will be predictably 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 of the area (as a result of increased vaccination and sterilization (spay/neuter) compliance) AND the viability of the practice.

1 www.quickfacts.census.gov

2 http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2014.pdf

3 USDA APHIS NVAP

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 Brown

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

Organization: Kansas Animal Health

Email: william.brown@ks.gov

Telephone Number: 785-564-6614
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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.