Shortage ID KS207
VMLRP USE ONLY

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0050
Expiration Date: 9/30/2019

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: Russell, Lincoln, Osborne, Ottawa 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): Russell, Kansas 67665
(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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle	☒ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine	☒ Swine
☐ Poultry	☒ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant	☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____	☐ 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 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 services to clientele in the area. These services are becoming increasingly difficult for cattle producers to obtain from veterinarians due to a high animal-to-practitioner ratio. Several veterinarians in the area have retired, and several face impending retirements.
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. With the onset of Trichomoniasis testing regulations in Kansas, it is vital to the livelihood of producers to have sufficient numbers of veterinarians. The VFD requires a VCPR with additional producers and impacts 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 characteers 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, 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 in this area. Kansas is reliant on beef production. In this shortage area, beef production is predominately cow/calf or stocker/background operations. Seasonal activities may include reproductive support such as breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, and dystocia assistance. Additional activities include preventative health programs, calf vaccination, castration and providing individual animal veterinary treatment. In this area, there has been a migration from veterinary-provided services in the fields 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, and veterinarians must be certified to perform official Trichomoniasis tests. This individual must be Trichomoniasis certified and be APHIS Category II Accredited to issue Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and perform other regulatory procedures. Providing Veterinary Feed Directives for feed grade antibiotics requires a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship for individuals that may not have previously had a herd veterinarian.

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).

Recent graduates have been recruited to the area. Retaining these younger practitioners is vital to the livestock producers in this region. Lincoln County Economic Development has been active in identifying need and attempting to recruit veterinarians. It is difficult to hire and retain associate veterinarians in a rural practice when they can be hired elsewhere for $15,000 more per year. This practice area has 13,568 residents and is approximately 70 miles to a town of 47,700. The largest town in the area has a population of 6915 residents. Attracting veterinarians willing to practice in rural areas becomes paramount. Young veterinary graduates are active in their communities and have mentors available.

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 2219 sq. miles with a cattle population of 96,000 cattle. There are nine licensed Category II accredited veterinarians. Two are not practicing, one is retired and another practices outside of this area. This leaves five food animal practitioners and the cattle-to-practitioner ratio is 19,200:1. As this area serves cow/calf producers and background/feeding operations, this is a high ratio given the number of premises. Additionally, cattle production, multiple sheep and goat flocks, and small swine 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 constant challenges to producers.
As agriculture is the area's 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 and 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.city-data.com
2) http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/County_Estimates/index.php 01.01.18
3) APHIS Category II veterinarians, 10/15/2019

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: Justin Smith

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

Organization: Kansas Dept of Ag, Division of Animal Health

Email: justin.smith@ks.gov

Telephone Number: 785-564-6613
(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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-050
Expiration Date:9/30/2019