

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: Arthur, Grant, Keith, Garden and McPherson 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): Arthur, NE 69121 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [] High Priority [x] Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

[x] Type I Shortage: Private Practice Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- [x] Beef Cattle [] Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry [] Small Ruminant [] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle [] Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry [] Small Ruminant [] Other: _____

[] Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

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: _____

[] Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week) Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas:

- [] Food Safety [] Public Health [] Epidemiology [] Other: _____

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 200 words or less).

The objectives of the veterinarian filling the shortage situation would be to assist in maintaining and improving overall animal welfare; maintaining the health of animals that contribute to an abundant, wholesome food supply, and maintaining and improving the veterinarian to food animal ratio. Further objectives would be to fulfill the obligations of regulatory medicine for state and federal governments. The state hopes to mitigate vulnerability to emerging animal diseases by maintaining an appropriate veterinarian to animal ratio.

According to NASS, there are about 236,829 head of cattle in these counties in addition to 458 sheep, 559 layers and 3,120 broilers. According to the State of Nebraska licensure records and anecdotal evidence collected from individuals familiar with livestock production in the area, there are 12 veterinarians practicing food animal care in these counties which total over 5,202 square miles. At least five of those veterinarians are planning to retire soon.

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 200 words or less).

The activities of the veterinarian filling the shortage situation in this area would be those of a skilled veterinary practitioner who could assist in maintaining and improving the overall health of the food animal population in these counties. The veterinarian in this position would improve the overall veterinarian to food animal ratio, thereby allowing for more time with clients for routine animal care, as well as allowing for improved response time to animal emergencies in this veterinary-deficient practice area. In addition to routine and animal emergency care, a veterinarian is needed for continued service at livestock auction markets in the area.

The veterinarian also would be expected to become proficient in regulatory medicine in order to assist state and federal officials in protecting against domestic and foreign contagious animal diseases.

The activities of this veterinarian will assist in developing and maintaining a community of sustainable food animal producers by delivering preventative medicine and conducting activities with clients that lead to an overall healthy and productive livestock herd.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Arthur County has only one veterinary clinic that services the 5 counties covered in this nomination. The owner of the clinic is past retirement age and has secured a young veterinarian to replace him and take over providing care for his clients. However, being a new graduate, the amount of debt incurred to complete veterinary school, in addition to undergraduate debt, is taking over 50% of the new veterinarian's monthly salary – causing him to struggle to provide for his family of three.

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 250 words or less).

The recently-hired veterinarian in Arthur County is struggling to stay due to educational debt. If the new veterinarian is not retained, clients in Keith, McPherson, Grant, Garden and Arthur Counties will have to wait even longer to receive proper animal care. Current veterinarians in the territory are traveling over 40 miles to reach clients each day.

The poor food animal to veterinarian ratio in this area could adversely affect the welfare of food animals and negatively impact our safe, abundant food supply. Without adequate veterinarian expertise in this area, the state would lose the necessary skills that educate current and future producers on how to manage their animals; give producers the knowledge that allows them to better care for their livestock; and helps ensure a rapid response in the event of a disease situation.

Clients need access to sound veterinary advice and service related to practices that can improve the quality and integrity of their food animals. The importance of this point is bolstered by the fact that Nebraska regularly ranks at the top in annual red meat production and commercial cattle slaughter. Our state also is a major exporter of live animals and meats, so

quality veterinary care that translates into healthy livestock is not just important for the veterinary practices, but important for consumers in the state, nation and world who receive the end food product.

(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 on Page 1, 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.

80%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

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: Dr. Dennis Hughes

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Email: Dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov

Telephone Number: 402-471-2351 or 800-572-2437
(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.

