

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: Harlan, Furnas and Franklin counties in Nebraska
(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): Alma, Nebraska
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority High Priority Critical Priority

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

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)

- 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 are 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 include fulfilling 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.

While the 2012 Census figures indicate cow/calf population in Harlan, Furnas and Franklin counties at around 103,941, area cattle industry experts put the current estimate closer to 113,391 due to the recent expansion of two feedlots and local producers adding cattle to their herds. Even with the large number of livestock, only three of the ten veterinarians licensed by the State of Nebraska in the proposed shortage area practice food animal healthcare fulltime. Based on anecdotal evidence collected from area industry experts, the other vets are either retired, moved, practice equine only, are privately contracted, or offer food animal services on a limited basis.

Veterinary services also are needed at the Alma livestock auction market and in three Kansas counties just south of the region that have reported veterinary shortages as well.

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).

A veterinarian filling the shortage needs of this area would be expected to assist in providing services, specifically to cattle producers, to assure that a healthy environment is maintained in order to protect the overall well-being of the local herds. 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.

By providing support to the cattle industry and other food animal production, the veterinarian would be fulfilling the need to assure safe and humane production practices, as well as giving additional support to the local economy.

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).

In the past few years, four new veterinarians have been secured in Harlan and Furnas counties, three of them primarily focusing on food animal health care. However, with an ever-expanding number of cattle in the region, and low numbers of food animal veterinarians overall in the region, there is an urgent need to retain and recruit new veterinarians. The primary challenge for retention is providing economic incentive for those veterinarians wanting to focus on food animal health care. Offering the opportunity to apply for VMRLP is important tool in the recruitment and retention process.

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).

Nebraska is a leading cattle producing state and Harlan, Furnas and Franklin counties represent the growing trend of livestock expansion in the state. It is critical to maintain the appropriate veterinarian to food animal ratio in the region to assure that the livestock receive the medical attention necessary to maintain and improve their overall health. Without the proper veterinarian care, the animals' overall well-being could be put at risk and/or there could be a reduction in herd size, greatly affecting the local economy.

In addition, it is vital to maintain an appropriate number of animal health experts in the region to keep sharp vigilance over contagious diseases and assist in making sure regulations in the region are properly followed.

(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.

82%

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

X By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

X 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) 5471-2351 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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016