

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: Western Otoe and Southern Lancaster 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): Syracuse, Nebraska 68446
(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.

The proposed designated area is uniquely situated near the city of Lincoln but still has a sizeable number of food animals that require veterinary attention and monitoring. While there are over 100 licensed veterinarians in Lancaster County and 10 in Otoe County (according to State of Nebraska records), only two of the veterinarians actively practice food animal medicine in the proposed shortage area based on anecdotal evidence collected from area industry experts. With both of the currently active food animal vets near retirement age, it is important to recruit and retain new food animal vets to the area in order to service the estimated 25,000 plus cattle and over 1,000 small ruminants (based on current Census figures) in the area.

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).

Because of the geographic and social-economic characteristics of this proposed designated shortage area, a veterinarian beginning practice there would expect to spend approximately 30 percent of their time addressing the needs of food animal producers, primarily cow/calf operations. The rest of the time would be dedicated to recreational animal needs due to demand and economic stability for the practice.

Despite the close proximity to a metropolitan region, food-animal production is still a very important segment of the area economy. However, due to the high demand for recreational animal care, it can be challenging for producers to find available veterinary care for their livestock. This is especially true during times of emergency medical needs and the birthing seasons.

As the state of Nebraska seeks to expand livestock production, it will be important to have adequate food animal veterinary care available in order to support the industry.

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).

The challenge to recruit veterinarians to this area to practice food-animal medicine has primarily been of an economic nature. Many of the beginning food animal positions available pay considerably less than positions for fulltime recreational animal jobs. Considering the student loan debt for a recently graduated veterinarian can range from \$100,000 to \$150,000, senior veterinarians in the proposed shortage areas said it has been extremely difficult to compete with small animal clinics in the metropolitan areas that offer higher salaries and part-time positions. Ongoing recruitment and retention efforts would be greatly aided by new veterinarians having the opportunity to apply for the VMLRP.

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).

With such a focus on recreational animal care due to the large urban population in this proposed designated shortage area it is vital to retain and recruit food animal veterinarians to the region in order to provide adequate care and overall well-being to the food animals being produced there. This is especially true during times of need of emergency care and during the birthing seasons.

Agriculture continues to be an important part of the local economy. In addition, with the invigorated efforts by the state of Nebraska to expand livestock production, an appropriate veterinarian to food animal ratio is critical. It will provide the needed support to grow and maintain the industry in the region.

There is also an urgent need to have adequate veterinary support to aid in keeping 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.

32%

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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
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