

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: Hitchcock, Hayes
(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): Hayes Center, 69032
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Must cover (check at least one) | May cover |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swine | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

90 %

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).

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.

With a size of 1,432 sq. miles, Hitchcock and Hayes counties have a total population of 3,839 people while supporting 80,813 cattle and calves, according to the latest Census figures. Nebraska public records indicate there are no veterinarians licensed in Hitchcock County and four licensed in Hayes County. According to discussions with experts in the area and anecdotal evidence, there are just three veterinarians in the area who practice food animal medicine. One of the three is near retirement. Two other licensed veterinarians in the area only practice small animal medicine.

It is vital to attract and retain younger or new food animal veterinarians to the area due to the economic importance of the cattle industry to area residents and the state of Nebraska.

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 food animal veterinarian new to this area can expect to have up to 90 percent of his or her time devoted to the medical care of cattle and calves. This will be especially true during calving season or when the cattle and calves are being transported. With a low number of veterinarians required to service a relatively large area (1,432 sq. miles, according to the latest Census figures), it will be imperative that a veterinarian in the area be astute and vigilant in detecting diseases and mitigating the spread of those diseases. Travel distances can be long on occasion, so the veterinarian will need to be efficient with his or her time.

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).

The low population base, and long distance from any metropolitan area, has made it difficult at times recruiting young veterinarians to Hayes and Hitchcock counties due to a rural lifestyle. Even for those veterinarians who prefer a more remote area, it has been difficult retaining them because of their inability to secure or develop the funding necessary to buy into an established practice due to high student loan debt. Senior veterinarians in the area have stated that having Hayes and Hitchcock counties deemed as a VLMPR shortage area would give them a tool to assist in attracting and retaining new veterinarians.

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).

Agriculture is the number one industry in Nebraska, and cow/calf production is a large sector of that industry. Therefore, it is essential to protect and nurture the cow/calf herd in Nebraska due to its high importance to the overall economy of the state and local communities. With more than 80,000 cattle and calves in Hitchcock and Hayes counties (according to the latest Census figures), it is imperative to keep an appropriate veterinarian-to-food animal ratio in order to provide adequate and accessible medical care when needed. The inability to maintain a proper number of veterinarians lengthens wait-time for animals that need medical attention, putting them at risk. It also hampers the ability to detect and mitigate potentially harmful diseases.

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.