Shortage ID NE216
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: 12/31/2022

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 VMLRP Shortage Allocations section of the VMLRP web site (https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/vmlrp-shortage-allocations) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Garden and Deuel 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): Oshkosh, NE 69164
(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 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: Equine

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.

85 %

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.

Garden and Deuel counties represent cattle country. With feedlots and cow-calf operations spread over 2,172 square miles, it is important to have an appropriate veterinarian to food animal ratio to assure that the 88,395 cattle and calves (2012 Census of Agriculture) receive adequate health care to prevent the spread of diseases and protect sick and injured animals from further harm. In addition, there are 869 horses and ponies in the area, most of which are working horses that also need proper health care in order to sustain their important role at these operations.

In reviewing the list of licensed veterinarians in these counties, there are only three who practice food animal medicine, and one of the three is past retirement age (70). It is important to recruit and retain new veterinarians to maintain the necessary veterinarian to food animal ratio over an expansive area that contains large numbers of cattle.

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 new veterinarian to this area can expect to spend the majority of his or her time working with cattle at feed lots or cow/calf operations. The activities can range from illness and injuries to artificial insemination, pregnancy checks and calving. With the large numbers of working horses in this area it will also be important to maintain a healthy status for these animals as they are a key component to the success of these operations.

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.

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 senior, long-time veterinarian in this area said that he has made substantial efforts to recruit new veterinarians. He had attended job fairs at Kansas State University and the Bovine Practitioners Association (BPA), and purchased website advertising with the BPA and the Nebraska Veterinarian Medicine Association. He has received some interest in recent years but the lack of population and food animal salary versus companion animal salaries have presented challenges.

Having the opportunity to apply for the VMLRP would greatly assist in attracting new veterinarians to the area since it would help alleviate student debt and provide the opportunity to buy into a clinic.

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).

Given the large number of cattle that are spread over the wide areas of these two counties, it is imperative to have an appropriate veterinarian to food animal ratio in order to maintain the overall health of the herd and keep vigilance over the introduction and/or spread of contagious diseases.

Because of the long distances between cattle operations, a shortage of veterinarian services increases already long wait times for emergency calls putting the health of animals at risk. In addition, there is a rather large number of working horses in the area that require health care during the busy season. If a farm or ranch were to lose the services of horses due to the lack of emergency care, it could put cattle operations in a stressful situation.

The 3,839 residents (according to the most recent Census) are very dependent on the cattle industry for their local economies. A serious health issue to cattle in that area would not only put the local economy at risk but would have an impact statewide since the cattle industry is one of the largest segments of the states' economy

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 Dept. of Agriculture

Email: dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov

Telephone Number: (402) 471-2351
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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, 2312 East Bannister Road, Mail Stop 10,000, Kansas City, MO 64131, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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