

# 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](http://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: All 33 counties in New Mexico  
(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): Albuquerque, NM  
(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: State of New Mexico or other animal health agency    Position Title: Veterinarian  
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Herd Health

**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).**

A veterinarian in this position will dedicate at least 60% of their time to regulatory medicine in all 33 counties in New Mexico (NM). As of 2011, NM has 1,540,000 head of cattle, including 322,000 milk cows, 72,000 ewes and approximately 26,000 goats. During 2011, NM ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in milk production. The objectives of this veterinarian will be to: promote responsible livestock management, hence consumer safety; provide guidance during emergencies; develop protocols to address outbreaks of foreign animal disease; provide educational opportunities for livestock producers; and act as a resource for information for other veterinarians. This veterinarian will coordinate with USDA regarding FAD investigations, One Health initiatives and disease surveillance programs. In previous years NM had TB positive cattle in the state; the veterinarian will assist the state veterinarian in regulatory duties related to remaining TB-free including testing of cattle and traceback, when needed. This veterinarian will be located centrally but will travel throughout the state providing public health assistance where needed and coordinating efforts with federal, state and local agencies.

**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).**

To meet the objectives listed above the veterinarian meeting the shortage situation will:

- Assist with the investigation and prevention outbreaks of foreign animal disease
- Assist with the development, implementation and reporting of USDA cooperative agreements with respect to animal health and animal traceability
- Implement strategies to gather information and prevent spread of disease
- Ensure disease reduction plan goals are met within the state (TB, Brucellosis, Vesicular Stomatitis)
- Assist with the development and exercise of bioterrorism and agroterrorism prevention and preparedness plans
- Coordinate responses to natural and man-made disasters, including evacuation planning for companion animals and livestock
- Assist with the education of students at universities and veterinary technician programs through guest lectures and curriculum design, when needed
- Provide educational materials regarding zoonotic and livestock diseases to the public and private practitioners
- Provide subject matter expertise and conduct investigations into animal cruelty investigation related to livestock, if needed
- Prevent disease transmission from feral swine to cattle and other livestock through education of stakeholders and policy makers
- Answer inquiries from the public, producers and veterinarians
- Conduct surveillance for emerging infectious diseases, especially those that impact animal and human health

**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).**

Recruitment of another regulatory or public health veterinarian has been restricted because of lack of funding, especially during times of economic crises. Positions for regulatory veterinarians at the state of NM have been frozen and subsequently eliminated. Furthermore, state employees have not received a cost of living or salary increase in 7 years. This impacts veterinarians' ability to repay veterinary school loans.

**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).**

Excluding federal VMOs, New Mexico currently has one (1) state veterinarian and two (2) public health veterinarians to cover regulatory program diseases, FADs, one health diseases and emergency management situations over a 121,298 sq. mi. land mass. The threat of disease introduction/spread from being a border state poses unique diseases livestock concerns with the potential to impact the NM economy and health of New Mexicans. Loss of one veterinarian would have a staggering result on NM's ability to respond to disease situations and add greater workload to the overstretched core of

federal /state veterinarians. Reduction in core staff would result in a negative economic impact to livestock producers and consumers not only within the state, but to our trade partners in neighboring states. Federal and state budget cutbacks coupled with a loss of veterinarians may result in a position not being re-filled for the foreseeable future. NM achieved TB-free status in 2011. Although, more veterinarians are needed to maintain this status, the concern is to avoid further reduction in the current economic climate. In order to continue producer/community education, disease surveillance/response and emergency management planning, financial support of current positions are necessary. Regulatory veterinarians are needed to provide consultation regarding herd health plans, biosecurity and disease surveillance to beef and dairy producers, sheep producers and private practice veterinarians in 33 NM counties. Further, binational disease surveillance and reporting with Mexico for diseases such as TB and Brucellosis in imported cattle and food products will improve animal and human health in NM.

**(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.**

60%

**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: Ellen Mary Wilson, D.V.M.

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

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(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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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