



NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2015

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 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: San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinley Counties and Sandoval County, 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): GPS Coordinates: 36.0004, -107.6264
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [] High Priority [X] 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: _____

[X] 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)

- [X] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[X] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle
[X] Dairy Cattle
[X] Swine
[X] Poultry
[] Small Ruminant
[X] Other: Show animals _____

[] 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 objective for food animal veterinarians in northwestern NM is to provide service to livestock on beef (cow/calf and breeding bull), small ruminant and poultry operations. Two veterinarians are needed to fill this shortage situation; therefore two (2) VMLRP Shortage Situation nominations are submitted for this area (one Type I and one Type II). According to the last NASS census, there are 91,483 cattle, 62,493 sheep, 21,736 goats and 9,584 layers. McKinley County ranks #1 in sheep production for the state. Livestock production in San Juan and McKinley Counties is culturally significant for Native Americans residing in the area. Much of northwestern NM is tribal land with many cattle, sheep and goat producers on Native American reservations and pueblos. The herds/flocks are widely scattered across poor quality range. The counties in the quadrant are large and rural (combined square mileage 20,534) and have low per capita incomes (average of \$20,342). Livestock sales total \$30,000,000 annually. The food animal veterinarian to livestock ratio in these counties is low; per AVMA data, there is one (1) food animal veterinarian for ~12,000 food animals.

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).

In order to fulfill the objectives of a food animal veterinarian in this area, he/she would be involved in herd health management, basic health care, and disease surveillance for beef and dairy cattle, small ruminants (including sheep, goats) and camelids. They will also perform USDA Accredited Veterinarian regulatory functions, which include issuing certificates of veterinary inspection for interstate and international livestock movements, Brucellosis testing and vaccination, tuberculosis testing, development of disease management plans, cleaning/disinfection plans and the recognition of signs of foreign animal diseases. Disease surveillance would include testing and monitoring for tuberculosis, Brucellosis, bovine trichomoniasis, anthrax, bovine viral diarrhea, scrapie, pseudorabies and other livestock diseases of significance. There is also a significant 4-H and FFA presence in the area; the veterinarian supported by the VMLRP would also need to care for club and show animals related to these activities. A Type II Shortage Veterinarian would spend 30% of their time in herd health management, individual animal care, assisting producers in management decisions, disease surveillance and performing regulatory duties.

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).

Existing practitioners, aging toward retirement, find it difficult to hire and retain food/mixed animal veterinarians for this area. Five previous veterinarians who worked in the area moved away for higher salaries and perceived better quality of life in metropolitan areas. Within the last few years, two recent veterinary graduates were hired to assist with large animal work. Veterinarians in this practice travel many miles and serve all the counties listed in this shortage nomination, in addition to the surrounding areas, which include the Navajo Nation (NM/AZ/CO/UT) and rural Colorado. Financial incentives are vital to attract and retain veterinary practitioners to rural areas.

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).

Failure to secure or retain rural veterinarians in northwestern NM can result in risk to industry and reduced ability to detect livestock diseases of significance. One practice, located in San Juan County, active for approximately thirty (30) years, is the only practice in the area with both ambulatory capabilities and a hospital available for conduct of surgery and inpatient care. The remainder of practices in the area are solely ambulatory. This practice also has two recent veterinary graduates and a 0.5 FTE associate veterinarian, who were hired to conduct primarily food animal work, thus the need for two VMLRP positions in this area. Without programs such as VMLRP, practices such as this may not be able to secure or retain livestock practitioners, which the local economy depend upon, for this community. Veterinarians in this area also provide care for 4-H and FFA club and show animals in programs which are essential for the development of future agricultural leaders. Veterinarians in the area also provide veterinary services to animal rescues in the state. The state's economy benefits a great deal from the revenue generated by the livestock industry and many New Mexicans are employed by ranches in this area. Sustainability of the livestock industry is dependent upon availability of large animal veterinary services.

Food animal veterinarians across the state spend long hours trying to serve producers of livestock over hundreds of square miles. This puts a strain on the veterinarians, their families and on the availability of service to producers. The existing veterinary force for this area does an excellent job with the current resources, but they are stretched too thin. VMRLP support would be an asset to retain these veterinarians.

(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.

%

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: Ellen Mary Wilson, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

Email: ellen.wilson@state.nm.us

Telephone Number: 505-841-6161
(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: 8/31/2015