

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: San Juan 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): Farmington, New Mexico 87401
(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: _____

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: alpacas, llamas,

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).

There are only a few veterinarians providing services for food animals in this area and none can afford to practice large animal medicine exclusively. At this time, all veterinarians seeing food animals are veterinarians working in mixed animal practices with emphasis on small animals. Farmington is an agricultural community, so food animal veterinarians are very important to the area. Veterinarians in the Farmington area may see livestock hauled in from regions in Arizona, Utah and Colorado that also have a shortage of food animal veterinarians. There are a few facilities that can provide services for livestock that are hauled in, but the practices are primarily providing services to horses and small animals. Veterinarians in the area work long hours for low salaries. In the current economy and with the unavailability of food animal veterinarians, farmers and ranchers try to do much of the veterinary work themselves and often only call a veterinarian for emergencies and not for overall herd health management. Veterinarians for this area need to be adaptable and inventive to meet the needs of the clients. They need to be able to consult with owners, research solutions and provide appropriate guidance.

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).

The activities of the veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would include dealing with reproductive health (breeding soundness examinations, pregnancy diagnosis, dystocias, emergency C-sections, lactation issues), routine herd management procedures (vaccinations, castrations, dehorning, hoof trimming, etc.), evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of sick livestock, and regulatory activities associated with vaccinating and testing for Brucellosis, tuberculosis testing, trichomoniasis testing, and preparation of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. Food animal veterinarians may have to drive up to two (2) hours to make farm/ranch calls. Veterinarians are on call for emergencies, so they may work nights and weekends. A veterinarian in this area must be able to communicate well with people and be engaged in the community to provide veterinary support and guidance to youth

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 veterinarians to this area, regardless of discipline, is very difficult, but more so for food animal veterinarians. In the past year, the two clinics in the region that had been providing services to food animals both lost their veterinarians that were exclusively providing services for food animals. The veterinarians recruited to fill the vacated positions are mixed animal practitioners unable to devote full time to food animals to remain profitable. Veterinarians who interview for new positions are often small animal practitioners, who are difficult to retain due to the long hours associated with the work in the area.

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).

Without availability of food animal veterinary services and emergency services, the potential for missed or delayed identification of emergency foreign animal or emerging diseases exists, which potentially jeopardizes the region, state and nation. Availability of veterinarians for early evaluation and diagnosis of disease incidents and/or unexplained deaths in food animals is essential, even in remote areas of the country, to protect our animal populations and the public. Ranchers may sacrifice animals and take losses that could be avoided if reliable services were available and obtained. Without food animal veterinarians to treat and advise treatment follow up, food safety may be compromised by producers unaware of, or negligent in, safe animal treatment practices essential for food safety. Producers may ignore regulations in place to protect animal health if food animal veterinary services are only available if they transport their animals great distances for testing and health certificates; noncompliance with regulations compromises animal health and increases risk of disease transmission. Without vets to help investigate die offs there will be may not be any way of knowing how to protect the rest of the herd and also whether it is also a potential human health issue.

(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

- 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 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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