VMLRP Shortage ID Code TX145

NIFA

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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: Brazoria County, TX
(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): 3 Cemetery Road, Sweeny TX 77480
(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)	**May cover**
❑ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
❑ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
❑ Swine	❑ Swine
❑ Poultry	❑ Poultry
❑ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ 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)	**May cover**
✓ Beef Cattle	❑ Beef Cattle
✓ Dairy Cattle	❑ Dairy Cattle
✓ Swine	❑ Swine
✓Poultry	❑ Poultry
✓ Small Ruminant	❑ Small Ruminant
❑ Other: _____	❑ Other: _____

❑ **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).

While not far from large urban centers, much of the county is rural and according to the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture had an inventory of 84,736 food animals (mostly beef cattle). One solo practitioner in the area has struggled to hire an associate as he moves toward retirement after 35 years of practice in the area. He comments that two other sole-proprietor practices in the area have closed in the last year, as those veterinarians retired. In this practice, turning away food animal clients is currently a weekly occurrence. Emergency services are particularly critical - in one recent week this practitioner reports turning away six bovine emergencies because of an inability to leave other cases and appointments in the clinic. A commitment to the profession and the community drives his desire to continue to provide adequate service to food animal clients in the area. However, the reality is that this ability is increasingly being compromised. The existing practitioner is committed to finding the right candidate to fill this need and assisting them in establishing a permanent presence in the area.

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).

Expected activities would include providing scheduled health care services and examinations, surgical services, vaccinations, treatments, seeing bovine emergencies, and providing emergency field/ambulatory services. Also important would be serving as a liaison with the community, schools, clubs, and local service organizations to promote and encourage animal health care. The nature and complexity of this community requires the veterinarian to wear "many hats" to adequately serve the clientele. After-hours emergency services are in dire need. There is an opportunity for a new veterinarian to take over as the primary vet in an established practice. Currently, existing facilities (including a cattle barn with 5 pens and a working chute) allow the practice to meet many client needs, but an additional veterinarian will enable more field calls. Cattle and small ruminants will constitute the majority of activities, but there is room for growth in swine health activities.

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).

Efforts have included working with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M to try and find a fourth-year student with an interest in the area. Obstacles include lower earning potential in rural areas drawing students to more urban practices, workload and expectation of working extended or late hours, housing and social limitations in a rural area, and substantial debt incurred during veterinary school. While the loan repayment assistance will not change many of these issues, it could make the decision more economically viable and allow the right candidate to become established in the Sweeny 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).

The potential risks of not securing a veterinarian in this community are limited quality and quantity of services being provided to the area's livestock producers. Sole proprietorships used to be the backbone of the profession and are increasingly being replaced by corporate entities or uneducated/untrained ranch hands. This absence of professional involvement introduces the possibility of a number of problems including improper medication dosages and lack of quality control in products used; inaccurate observations and treatment recommendations; contamination of products entering the marketplace; overuse, overuse, or inappropriate use of antibiotics; risk of unnoticed and uncontrolled disease outbreaks (including foreign or emerging diseases); and lack of necropsy services to accurately diagnose and target potential problems in herd health management.

(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: Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA (point of contact Holly Hughes-Garza, DVM)

Title: State Veterinarian/Executive Director

Organization: Texas Animal Health Commission

Email: comments@tahc.texas.gov

Telephone Number: 800-550-8242 x718
(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, OGFM, 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: 11/30/2016