

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: Grayson, Fannin, Lamar Counties , Texas (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): Intersection of US 82 and TX34 between Bonham and Paris, TX (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [x] 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 [x] Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry [] Small Ruminant [] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle [] Dairy Cattle [x] Swine [] Poultry [x] Small Ruminant [] 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).

Cow-calf and dairy operations make up a significant portion of the economy of Lamar County. Veterinary services for food animals are currently limited, with just three practitioners for the 83,297 head of cattle (2007 NASS). Of these, two have stopped or greatly reduced their food animal services due to health concerns. The number of vets going food animal medicine in Lamar County alone has shrunk from 7, including a 4-vet practice that used to do about 75% food animal (mostly cow-calf). A number of producers and a local sale barn get vet services from as far as 45 miles away because local options are limited. The workforce continues to shrink, and even though there are a number of companion animal and equine practitioners in the area, cattle and other livestock producers often have difficulty securing routine and emergency care. Lamar County has been designated as a shortage area for two years with no successful applicants to the program thus far. The adjacent counties of Grayson and Fannin have also been considered for inclusion in several recent years, so are now being added to this designation in hopes of increasing the chances of securing a new practitioner 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).

A veterinarian meeting this shortage would be a mixed practitioner with a definite focus on cattle, and interest in other food animals such as swine and small ruminants as well. Services would be provided on both an ambulatory and haul-in basis. The potential for ambulatory work is extensive, which would give needed service to many small, family-owned and operated farms that do not currently have close access to veterinary care. Education and outreach to these small operators would be of great value. Work related to yearling and cow-calf operations such as routine pregnancy determination, vaccination, and diagnostic sample collection would be expected. The vet would be USDA accredited and TAHC approved to perform regulatory work on livestock, including trichomoniasis testing of bulls, TB testing, brucellosis testing and brucellosis vaccination. The veterinarian would also be involved in community activities (livestock shows, extension meetings, association meetings, and other forums to further knowledge of proper animal husbandry and preventive medicine. Emergency services during normal business hours and after hours would be expected, and general duties would include herd health activities and consultations, as well as medical and surgical services for food animals.

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).

One local practice has hosted approximately 15 interns in recent years, and participates in internship and interview programs through Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, Kansas State, and even Auburn. Retaining veterinarians who will spend a significant proportion of times long-term in providing food animal services has been a challenge. A number of vets who used to practice food animal have remained in the area but ceased food animal services for personal or health reasons. So retention is a challenge as well as recruitment.

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).

Producers will continue to travel further and further for veterinary care. Producers will more often be left to make management and herd health decisions on their own without the best available veterinary resources and guidance. This will lead to an overall decrease in production as well as potentially compromise animal wellbeing. Guidance on the proper use of antibiotics, herd health, vaccination, individual animal care, nutrition, interstate movement requirements, and recognition of emerging, foreign or zoonotic disease signs are all vital services that a veterinarian should provide. Without veterinary involvement, these items may be neglected, and have a negative impact on the industry and the ability of these producers to truly provide a safe, wholesome food supply. Producers may be under-educated on the proper timing and use of certain vaccinations or prescription drugs. It is likely that there are farms in this area on which a veterinarian has never set foot. Many producers

cannot justify travelling to a vet's office when the closest one is in another county or another state in this case (Oklahoma). The result is that sick animals are left untreated, or they are taken across state lines. The animal likely suffers from lack of proper care, or delay in medical attention. The opportunity exists to promote and improve animal welfare and herd health, as well as educate a large client base.

(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:

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA
Name: (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, 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: 11/30/2016