

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: Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit, LaSalle, Webb counties – South 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 Hwys 83 and 277 – Carrizo Springs, TX
(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: _ cervids/deer, equine

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: _____ 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).

Private veterinary practitioners are our first line of defense against foreign animal diseases. This is especially important along an international border. This shortage area contains very few veterinarians who provide care to food animals. Like so many rural areas, the veterinarians that do serve this area are working well past retirement age in service of their communities. While the center of service area is listed as Carrizo Springs, where there is one practitioner who is seeking retirement, there could also be opportunities to join an existing practice in Dilley (another location with a solo practitioner) or to set up a practice in Cotulla or Crystal City, TX. The primary objective of a veterinarian would be to meet the overall veterinary needs of this rural population as a true mixed-animal practitioner. The veterinarian would specifically provide care to the beef cattle and captive cervid populations, as well as smaller numbers of goats and hogs, and of course companion animals in the area. The veterinarian would maintain active accreditation with the USDA and a sound understanding of the diagnosis and prompt/proper reporting of any suspected foreign or reportable animal disease.

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).

It is anticipated that the veterinarian would spend 40+% of their time with food animals. Daily activities would include tending to individual health concerns of beef cattle, such as emergencies, reproductive work, injuries and general illness as well as serving as a trusted resource to the ranching community on herd health, best management practices, and optimal animal care. The veterinarian would be on-call for emergencies and provide ambulatory care. Specific activities would include palpation for pregnancy determination, accredited veterinarian duties including brucellosis testing and calfhood vaccination, Coggins testing, writing health certificates, possibly providing service to a local sale barn, and more. Other considerations would be, with appropriate training and approval of the state veterinarian, work involving trichomoniasis in cattle and chronic wasting disease in cervids. There are a large number of deer operations in the area, so interest in cervids is necessary. The veterinarian would maintain current approval of the state veterinarian for specific duties such as brucellosis, trichomoniasis and chronic wasting disease work.

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 practitioner has attempted to retire a number of times in the past 10 years. Another has continued limited large animal work, including working a sale barn, into his 70's due to concerns that nobody else will provide the service. These veterinarians have brought students into their practices in hopes that one will stay and take over the practice. A previous vet clinic in Crystal City did not sell after a long while on the market, and it has now been converted into a boutique.

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).

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are approximately 154,000 beef cattle in Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit, and LaSalle counties combined. South Texas was recently home to the first diagnosed cases of cattle brucellosis in the state in over 5 years. In addition, the spread of cattle fever ticks into US territory is a constant threat to US cattle and has been since the 1800's. A portion of this area remains under temporary preventive quarantine for cattle fever ticks, in addition to the permanent quarantine area along the Texas-Mexico border. State and federal veterinary infrastructure provides an organized and effective response capacity throughout the state for any foreign, emerging, or zoonotic disease threat, and also holds the ultimate responsibility for maintaining the valuable safe and wholesome food supply that is currently produced in the state of Texas and exported nationally and internationally. However, private veterinary practitioners serve crucial functions in the early recognition of foreign and other significant animal disease problems, as well as educating livestock

producers about appropriate animal care practices, judicious use of over-the-counter drugs and remedies, and disease recognition and reporting. A decrease in the number of veterinarians directly and frequently inspecting livestock, and an increase in geographic distance between veterinary care and animal populations, over time could lead to an overall decrease in productivity and increased production costs. These consequences have potential effects on the long-term value and quality of animal products that we currently enjoy.

(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, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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