

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

Bosque, McClennon, and Hill Counties, Texas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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 State Hwy 6 and FM 219, Clifton, 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:

May cover

- Beef Cattle Dairy Cattle Swine Poultry Small Ruminant Other: cervids

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).

*Agriculture is the main enterprise in these three counties - specifically, beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, cervids, and some lambs. A high percentage of stocker cattle as well as cow-calf operations are steadily rebuilding their herds and finding that veterinarians who were previously available to them have now retired or passed away. The Clifton Livestock Commission has recently increased production with a preconditioning program, and yet the veterinarian in Clifton is preparing to retire soon. Dairy producers are forced to travel to Stephenville for emergencies (an hour or much more) and have no veterinarian available for on-farm procedures or establishment of a routine veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture lists the cattle inventories for these three counties collectively at 160,000 head. In the past 2 years, two veterinarians that mainly serviced food animals have passed away or retired. Another veterinarian in Bosque County is planning to retire in the next 12 months. No new food animal practitioners have come to the area in the past decade. Importantly, this area of the state has a high number of prolific sale barns. This high volume of cattle sales and movement makes this area a very high risk for disease spread.*

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 veterinarian filling this shortage would spend a minimum of 12 hours per week working with food animals. The vet would be USDA accredited for large animal work, authorized by the Texas Animal Health Commission for regulatory disease work on food animals, and competent in foreign animal disease recognition. Work would also include emergency services, herd health consultation, obstetrical work, monitoring of animal welfare, as well as disease surveillance. The veterinarian should provide preventative, diagnostic, surgical, and emergency services to the beef and dairy producers in the area. Consultation on biosecurity practices and state regulatory diseases related to herd restocking would also be valued. Change of ownership testing, identification, and education regarding regulatory and other diseases (including trichomoniasis, cattle fever ticks, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, and others) would be critical. Disease traceability is of critical importance in an area with this many cattle sales ongoing, and involvement by a veterinarian will help ensure compliance with new state and federal animal disease traceability rules. Involvement in the community and promotion of animal health would improve the future of animal agriculture in the area, and help anchor the awardee to the area in a lasting and fulfilling manner.*

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).

*Over the past 3 years, local marketers have worked with the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in hopes of recruiting a new graduate to the area. Job postings have also been shared with other western states' veterinary schools. The Texas Veterinary Medical Association has been contacted to try and identify interested practitioners. Despite these efforts, the already scarce number of veterinarians willing to see food animals in the area continues to dwindle. A soon-to-retire local practitioner, producers, the Clifton Chamber of Commerce, and the Livestock Marketing Association of Texas all support designation of this area as a VMLRP shortage.*

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 lack of veterinary resources is a critical limiting factor to the production of health cattle and a safe food supply. Beef and dairy producers in this area of Texas are involved in providing products consumed all over the United States. Additionally, from a state perspective, the need for a veterinarian accredited with USDA and authorized by TAHC to perform disease surveillance and change of ownership testing in this high volume sales area is critical. Dairy production across the state of Texas has suffered due to lack of veterinary services. Specifically, dairy producers in this tri-county area have been forced to treat animals themselves or travel over 100 miles for veterinary care. This lack of professional services potentially creates animal welfare concerns, as well the ongoing ability to provide a safe milk and food supply. Without access to a veterinarian, many cattle producers rely on pharmaceutical reps and other lay people for advice. This could result in improper diagnosis and treatment, improper drug dosing, overuse/misuse of antibiotics in food animals, and poor quality control of products diverted away from veterinary channels. Establishment of a relationship with a veterinarian would help avoid drug residue issues and other unsafe practices that could endanger the food supply and animal health. A veterinarian working day-to-day in this area would also decrease the chance that a potentially devastating foreign or emerging animal*

disease could go unnoticed or unreported, slowing the response, and potentially impacting international trade in animals and animal products.

(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.

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**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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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