

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

Bailey, Parmer, Lamb, Castro, Cochran, Hale, Deaf Smith Counties, TX

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): 1430 Hwy 84, Muleshoe, TX 79347

(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: _____

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).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation would be committed to maintaining food safety and public health primarily related to dairy cattle, milk and dairy product production, and beef products. The veterinarian would assist producers in achieving environmentally sound agricultural practices as well as consulting on the most appropriate animal welfare practices. They will be the first line of defense for preventing the introduction of foreign animal or reportable diseases, diagnosing and reporting these diseases, assuring appropriate animal movement requirements, and documentation and assistance in any reportable disease investigation or response efforts. According to the 2012 USDA census of Agriculture and the AVMA database, these counties have a combined total of over 1.8 million food animals and 20 veterinarians. At around 100,000 food animals per veterinarian, there are great concerns about the potentially devastating losses possible in this area in the event of a diseases outbreak. The addition of multiple veterinarians in coming years is essential to meet this need. A veterinarian in this area would be expected to spend at least 32 hours per week treating food animals.

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 in this shortage situation would establish and maintain regular herd health visits with producers, assist in establishing and overseeing appropriate preventive animal health and treatment protocols and procedures, and to be a preliminary entity to help ensure food safety and public health. A working knowledge of epidemiology will be expected. Routine herd health visits, preventative care, pregnancy determination, necropsy and emergency services will account for a large portion of the veterinarian's time. Preventative health visits, farm employee training and education, regulatory animal disease movement testing and documentation as required by the state and USDA, educational producer and/or community meetings, milk quality troubleshooting, as well as counseling on environmental practices, animal welfare and best production methods to ensure food safety and public health are activities in which a veterinarian may be involved. The veterinarian should be USDA accredited for large animal work, and authorized by the Texas Animal Health Commission for regulatory disease program work. A sound knowledge of state and federal animal disease traceability rules would be expected.

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).

There has been difficulty in this area with recruiting new associates who are willing to do food animal work. Past efforts included advertisements in state and national journals, and coordination with the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. There are also efforts to engage young people through local 4H and FFA programs. Retention is a major concern and has been a problem in the past in this area of the state, so the awardee would be encouraged to pursue a position where there is an opportunity for mentorship and sharing of on-call duties.

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).

Texas is one of the top dairy states (ranked #6) in the US. Texas produces approximately 9.6 billion pounds of milk (4.7%) of the 201 billion produced annually in the US. The Panhandle region of Texas is the epicenter of the dairy industry in Texas and growth in this area has been rapid and continuous in recent years. The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service data indicates that there were approximately 190,000 dairy cows in the Muleshoe area, with an estimated wholesale value of milk over \$1.1 billion from the designated counties. As such, veterinarians serving this area play a critical food supply role for the state and nation. Food animal veterinarians are the first line of defense, education, and prevention when it comes to maintaining a safe and wholesome food supply. Working with producers, veterinarians assure appropriate therapeutic procedures and drug dosages, as well as drug residue avoidance and responsible use of antibiotics. Domestic and foreign export markets demand a consistent and safe food product and veterinarians are essential to help assure this via consultation, education, and training of producers and farm personnel. Should the industry not have access to the services of a veterinarian, public health risks are a considerable concern. In addition, livestock operations in this area are crucial to the community's economy

via jobs and tax contributions. Animal welfare is an integral part of veterinary medicine and there are no other professionals more qualified to be guardians of animal welfare and animal health.

(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