

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: Haskell, Stonewall, King and northern Jones, 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): 1400 South Avenue F, Haskell, TX 79521
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Must cover (check at least one) | May cover |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swine | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>small animal</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:
 Food Safety
 Public Health
 Epidemiology
 Other: _____

(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 above, 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.

50 %

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 1500 characters).

Agriculture is the main enterprise in these counties. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture and 2008 AVMA Statistics this four-county area has a total of 110,000 food animals served by a total of 5 food animal veterinarians (2 in Haskell County, 1 in Jones County, 2 in King County and none in Stonewall County). In addition to food animals, this four-county area has very strong equine population and cervid industry and spans over 3,000 square miles. Due to the limited number of veterinarians willing or able to practice herd health/production and emergency medicine, providing an incentive for new graduate veterinarians to stay in this under serviced area and provide food animal care is vital. A veterinarian serving this area would be a mixed rural practitioner, able to competently handle all species presented, and able to handle both preventative and emergency medicine. A large percentage of producers depend on beef cattle as a source of income and the need for a veterinarian to work closely with these producers to maximize profitability is critical to their livelihood. In addition to the economic advantage of health management, the need for a veterinarian to monitor for disease control is critical. Serving as the first level of surveillance for foreign and emerging diseases such as foot and mouth disease, viral, bacterial and prion diseases in multiple species would be crucial.

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 1500 characters or less).

A livestock veterinarian in this area would also be required to work on small animals and horses, meaning they must be well-versed in all areas of medicine. A veterinarian practicing in this area must be able and willing to handle both food animal and companion animal emergencies. Veterinary activities in this area would include working closely with producers to form herd health management plans, aiding in the management of cow/calf operations and stocker operations, and investigation and diagnosis of disease outbreaks. Additionally, a veterinarian working in this area will be involved in educating 4H and FFA members on food animal medicine and production and helping 4H and FFA members with their livestock projects. Other vital services would include regulatory work such as interstate movement and change of ownership testing for a variety of regulatory disease programs, writing health certificates, and vaccinations. The veterinarian would be accredited category II (all species) with USDA Veterinary Services, authorized by the Texas Animal Health Commission for regulatory disease work in Texas, and competent in foreign animal disease recognition.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

There have been two veterinary associates practicing in this area at separate times that have chosen to move. In the past year, the practice in Haskell has contacted Texas A&M as well as bordering states Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, posted ads on their websites, posted ads with the TVMA, and used social media, all with no inquiries. Current plans are to interview interested 4th year veterinary students at two Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in late February 2016. Local and regional support for the designation of this area as a VMLRP shortage comes from several local business owners who are also producers. Additionally, the King County Judge and the Haskell County Judge, both producers, also support this nomination.

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 2000 characters or less).

This area has a heavy population of stocker cattle and cow/calf operations. One veterinarian cannot properly attend to all of the producer's needs. This leads to a lack of or inappropriate treatment of animals and misuse of antimicrobials and other food animal drugs. This not only negatively affects animal welfare but also poses a risk of failure to follow proper drug withdrawals. This will be of even more import when the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), which went into effect on October 1, 2015, is fully implemented in December, 2016. When fully implemented, only a veterinarian with a valid Veterinary Patient Client Relationship will be able to write a VFD. This area has several nearby practices that have older practitioners what will be either retiring or decreasing their workload in the next 10 years. Of the five closest food animal practices to Haskell County, one practice plans to just shut down when the practice owner retires and two have been for sale for several years with no interest. The loss of veterinary practitioners and veterinary practices in this four-county area will be detrimental to the community as well as to the producers in the area. The lack of veterinary resources is a critical limiting factor to the production of healthy cattle and a safe food supply. Maintaining veterinary services 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.

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: Andy Schwartz, DVM (point of contact Susan Culp, DVM)

Title: Interim Executive Director

Organization: Texas Animal Health Commission

Email: comments@tahc.texas.gov (susan.culp@tahc.texas.gov)

Telephone Number: 800-550-8242 x716
(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.