

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: Brazos, 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): Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab, 1 Sippel Rd., College Station, TX
77843
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical Priority

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

Type III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

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

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: Texas A&M Vet. Med. Diagnostic Laboratory Position Title: Diagnostician

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Pathology, Bacteriology, Virology, Serology

(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.

90 %

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).

The multi-billion dollar animal industry in Texas is critically dependent on the subject matter expertise of the diagnosticians employed by the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL). The TVMDL processes over 150,000 cases annually as part of its mission of surveillance and diagnostic services, enabling clients to detect, treat and monitor critically important diseases and conditions that pose threats to food safety, public health, animal health and the economic viability of the industries and individuals in those areas. This includes known domestic diseases (such as trichomoniasis and pseudorabies), as well as foreign animal diseases (such as FMD, CSF, and AIV) and newly emerging diseases (such as PEDV, Chaga's). The objectives of a veterinarian in this area are to support the entire veterinary and livestock producing community in Texas with quality diagnostic capacity. Additionally, as a member of the National Animal Health Lab Network (NAHLN), the diagnostic laboratory provides critical surge capacity for lab testing in the event of a foreign or emerging animal disease in the state.

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).

Veterinary diagnosticians at TVMDL typically have advanced training and/or board certification in one or more of the disciplines in the laboratory e.g. pathology, bacteriology, virology, toxicology. They daily provide case coordination and oversight of hundreds of cases submitted from every part of the state, region and nation. These positions also participate in test development and implementation as well as extension/teaching of both undergraduate and graduate veterinarians. The latter focuses on both the applied and theoretical underpinnings of diagnostic medicine and the effective use of the laboratory's services.

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).

TVMDL has experienced difficulty in recruitment and retention, with prolonged searches and even an inability to fill vacancies in the laboratory. The trend has increasingly been to fill positions with non-veterinarians due to an inability to attract qualified or interested veterinarians, resulting in a loss of critical clinical expertise.

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).

Increasingly the TVMDL has had to settle for non-veterinarians in professional positions. This shortfall results in a loss of clinical expertise being coupled with the specific discipline expertise (e.g. virology), which diminishes the value of consultative and interpretive services provided to clients. It also negatively impacts the diagnostic expertise in the laboratory, as non-veterinarians aren't as well versed in the broad range of diseases, clinical presentations, treatment and management strategies that veterinarians bring with them. The critical risk of missing an early stage diagnosis potentially threatens the safety and security of the food supply, public and animal health as well as the continued economic viability of the animal agriculture sector. Due to the size of the animal agriculture industries in Texas, this shortage poses a risk beyond the state borders, as animals and animal products move across state lines daily, and are traded internationally.

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.