

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: Coke, Crockett, Glasscock, Mitchell, Reagan, Sterling, Upton, 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): Sterling City, 76951
(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)

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

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- 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.

 %

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).

Due to the limited number of veterinarians willing or able to practice herd health/production and emergency medicine on livestock, recruiting and retaining qualified veterinarians in this under serviced area to provide animal care to food animals is vital. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, this seven-county area, spanning over 8,800 square miles, has a total of 86,427 sheep and lambs, 74,825 cattle and calves, 47,486 goats, and 2,360 horses and ponies. To service this vast area and this large number of livestock, there are a total of four food animal veterinarians from two practices located in Mitchell County. There are no veterinarians at all in Coke, Crockett, Glasscock, Reagan, Sterling, or Upton Counties. The two practices located in Colorado City, Mitchell County currently provide services to this entire seven-county area. The objectives of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation would be to provide the citizens with quality veterinary care, at a reasonable fee, at all hours of the day, and in a manner that does not require the animals to be hauled long distances. A veterinarian serving this multi-county area would be a mixed rural practitioner, able to competently handle all species presented, and able to handle both preventative and emergency medicine. In addition, the need for a veterinarian to serve as the first level of surveillance for foreign and emerging diseases and reportable pests is 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).

This position will have long work days and the minimum hours required for this Type II shortage will often be met in after-hours services and emergencies. A veterinarian serving this area would be a mixed rural practitioner, able to competently handle all species presented. Most food animal veterinarians in the area are also required to work on small animals and horses, meaning they must be well-versed in many areas of medicine. A veterinarian in this area must be able to be on-call 24-hours a day; handling physically taxing emergencies, drawn-out cases of equine colic, and mentally and emotionally stressful pet emergencies. A veterinarian in this area is responsible for not only livestock medicine, surgery, herd health practices and prevention of disease, but also to help producers attain maximum profitability from their livestock. In the food animal portion of a mixed practice in this area, the accredited veterinarian is key to the prompt and accurate recognition, containment and treatment of numerous diseases that can be economically crippling to the agricultural economy. A veterinarian working in this area would be accredited Category II (all species) with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services and Authorized by the Texas Animal Health Commission for regulatory disease work in Texas. Other vital services would include regulatory work such as change of ownership testing for a variety of regulatory disease programs, writing health certificates, and vaccinations.

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).

Over the past several years, one of the practices in Mitchell County has contacted Texas A&M and bordering states' Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, posted ads with TVMA, AVMA and AAEP to recruit new veterinarians to the area. They welcome veterinary externs and have a bunk house for student housing. Recently, they have increased their starting salary as a recruitment incentive. Should this nomination be designated as a VMLRP shortage area, the practice plans to use that as a retention incentive. In 2016, this clinic was successful in recruiting a new associate. This veterinary associate has been well received in the practice as well as in the local community.

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).

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, this seven-county area has a total of 211,098 head of livestock with a market value of over \$39.4 million dollars. With a total of four food animal veterinarians based out of two practices in only one of the seven counties, failure to secure and/or retain a food animal veterinarian in this area could have devastating economic consequences. Without securing/retaining accessible, skilled veterinary care in the area, there is a substantial risk of foreign or emerging animal diseases entering the area and going undiagnosed until becoming too widespread to contain. An outbreak of foot and mouth disease in this area could have devastating consequences to the national food supply, economy and international trade. Slow response time due to lack of veterinary attention could be disastrous. 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. The inability to retain an associate veterinarian would force producers in the area to travel significant distances for veterinary care or pay higher costs for a veterinarian to perform a ranch call. The consequences could decrease compliance with state and federal regulatory testing and inspection. From a regulatory standpoint, large animal veterinarians are responsible for recognizing such zoonotic health risks as anthrax, rabies and West Nile virus; economically devastating diseases like foot and mouth disease, Texas cattle fever, Chronic Wasting Disease and others. Failure to secure a skilled food animal veterinarian, or worse, failure to retain local veterinary practitioners serving this area, could make the potential damage of a foreign or emerging animal disease outbreak even more devastating.

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: 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 0524-0050 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.