

# 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](http://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: Sevier County, Utah (and Sanpete County)  
(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): 665 South SR 24, Salina, Utah 84654  
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

#### For Type I or II Private Practice:

**Must cover**(check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: horses and other equine

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: pets, dogs and cats

#### 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).

Salina, Utah in Sevier County, is home to the largest livestock auction in the State of Utah. Producers Livestock Auction has a cattle sale each week which averages about 1500 head and sheep sales every other week with that an average of 750 animals, at times with larger volumes depending on the season. Richfield, Utah, has the second largest livestock auction, R Livestock Connection, with somewhat smaller numbers.

Sevier and Sanpete Counties are mostly rural areas with a preponderance of livestock production agriculture. These counties combined have 94,000 head of cattle with 13,100 dairy cows, 71,000 sheep, produce 100 million pounds of turkey a year and contain 378,000 acres of farmland. These areas have over 50 cow / calf operations, thirteen dairies, small ruminant clients and bases of swine, horses, and even exotics.

Dr. Tyler Sorensen has a fixed facility practice and mobile practice located in Gunnison in Sanpete County and services a large area in both counties. He recently was able to attract another veterinarian and needs more help. Dr. Sorensen has an expanding dairy clientele with more requests for services than he can provide (he recently turned down a 7,000 head dairy that he simply couldn't service) and also has a robust cow / calf clientele. They obviously cannot keep up with growing demands from unserved clientele.

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 veterinarian would base his or her practice within these two counties. Because of the remote nature of these counties, this practitioner would need to have a mobile clinic from which to practice from during farm and ranch calls with a fixed facility capable of addressing emergency small and large animal needs. There is also a large BLM wild equine processing facility within 10 miles of the Salina area that requires a veterinarian. There is a strong need for a dairy practitioner in this area as well as a general bovine practitioner and a large animal mixed practice that could also handle swine, small ruminants, horses, pets, and poultry.

This veterinarian would also provide clientele in need of interstate movement of livestock certificates of veterinary inspection which would require national accreditation. He/she would also perform routine brucellosis vaccinations, brucellosis and tuberculosis testing, and promote animal disease traceability efforts by applying official identification to eligible livestock. He/she would also report diseases. The following are lists of expected activities related to specific types of clientele: Dairy Herd Veterinary Medicine - pregnancy exams / mastitis work / brucellosis vaccination / tuberculosis testing / emergency call (dystocia, displaced abomasum, etc.); Cow/Calf Work - vaccination programs / nutritional consulting / pregnancy exams / trichomoniasis testing of breeding bulls / interstate certificates of veterinary inspection.

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).

The economy of Sevier and Sanpete County to a large degree is still based on farming and ranching. Many efforts to attract a veterinarian to this area have been unsuccessful because of the income needed to meet current student loan obligations of new graduates. Dr. Sorensen recently enticed an associate veterinarian into his practice from a lucrative multiple veterinarian practice as a change of lifestyle but will struggle to retain him if he has college loan debts. Past efforts to recruit a veterinarian to this area are consistent to other areas of the State. There is more than enough work in this area to keep two more veterinarians busy but the new graduates have such a debt load that they cannot afford to work in food animal medicine.

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).

Because of the veterinary shortage in this area, many food animal related issues have become problematic. As an example, in order for cattle to be shipped properly between states, certificates of veterinary inspection are needed to accompany the cattle. Due to the shortage of veterinarians, this is often overlooked and has become a problem in this region. Because of the large number of beef and dairy cows in this area, the ranchers are under served and are frequently pursuing methods of skirting the veterinary practice act so that they can perform procedures that veterinarians should be doing. These counties need more access to a veterinarian that could provide consultation and education and promote necessary vaccination and herd health programs as well as permanent individual animal identification.

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: Barry N. Pittman

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

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Telephone Number: 801-538-7162  
(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.