

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: Carbon/Emery Counties
(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): 1750 North Coal Creek Road, Price, Utah 84501
(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) | May cover |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Equine</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Pets, exotics, other equine</u> |

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).

Carbon County's main agricultural focus is livestock and crops to feed livestock. There is a preponderance of summer and winter range for beef cattle and sheep as 85% of the land is pasture. There are 319 farms (240,652 acres) with livestock sales accounting for \$6.578 million and crop sales \$8.7 million yearly. The average farm is 754 acres.

Emery County has 459 farms that equal 155,235 total acres with each farm averaging 338 acres. There 281 cattle farms, 45 sheep farms, 7 goat farms and 294 farms have horses. There are also 40 poultry farms and 17 hog farms. Livestock sales account for \$9.957 million and crop \$1.495 million yearly.

There are approximately 35,000 head of beef cattle in this area and 10,000 head of sheep. There are also three small state inspected meat plants in the area that require disposition work. This service is extremely valuable to the State, plant owners and consumers.

This two county area covers an extremely large geographic range and farms and ranches are large and far apart.

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 veterinarian would need a portable practice as well as a fixed facility in the area as the majority of time would be engaged with cow/calf operations and bulls. He/she would be extremely busy providing this invaluable service to this isolated location. He/she would spend most of their time doing ambulatory work. Those duties are pregnancy testing, vaccinating for brucellosis, calving problems, testing bulls (PAP testing, fertility testing, trichomoniasis testing), and meeting interstate shipment requirement of animals leaving the area by writing certificates of veterinary inspection that would require national accreditation. The veterinarian could potentially be under contract with the state to do final dispositions on suspect animals at the three state meat inspected facilities in the area. This veterinarian also is the eyes and ears for the State Veterinarian for any emerging diseases found in livestock in that area. The veterinarian would also test rams for *Brucella ovis* and assure that the scrapies program is followed within the sheep and goat industry.

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 Carbon and Emery 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. Although there are currently several veterinarians practicing in certain cities in these two counties, past efforts to recruit more veterinarians to this area are consistent to other areas of the State. There is more than enough work in this area to keep more veterinarians busy but the new graduates have such a debt load that they cannot afford to live and work in rural food animal medicine practice area.

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 occasionally overlooked and has become a problem in this region. Because of the large number of beef and sheep 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, education, and promotion of necessary vaccination and herd health programs as well as permanent individual animal identification. Zoonotic Diseases are also somewhat common in this arid area of Utah, such as plague. A veterinarian could make inroads in the education, examination, and overall health of the companion animal population as well as vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets for rabies. This individual is the State Veterinarian's eye and ears in reference to veterinary needs at the packing plants, emerging diseases in the area, meeting the requirement for interstate shipment of livestock, and the testing bulls for trichomoniasis which is a regulated disease in the State of Utah.

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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(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.