

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: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
(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): 350 N. Redwood Road, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
(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 III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/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: Utah Department of Agriculture Position Title: Field Veterinarian

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: emergency response

(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).

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Animal Industry Division has the responsibility to oversee the health and welfare of the livestock industry in the state of Utah as well as to ensure the State's commercial supply of meat and poultry is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. Veterinarians serve in multiple programs within the Division to include the Animal Health Program, the Meat and Poultry Program, the Aquaculture Program and the Elk Program. These Programs cover a broad range of diversified veterinary duties and expertise. Having veterinarians involved in these programs is critical to answering disease threats to livestock with prevention, mitigation, response, and education to ensure continuity of operations in Utah's animal industry sectors.

Objectives for this position are:

- 1) Hire veterinarians who will consider this position as a career position with longevity.
- 2) Offer a position with opportunities for augmenting state salary deficiencies with student loan payment assistance.
- 3) Provide an opportunity for upward mobility in the Division.
- 4) Continue providing the expert veterinary service that has come to be expected by the Division and Department.

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).

Under general administrative direction an incumbent in this job performs veterinary duties to include: physical examination of all animals to be slaughtered, diseased or abnormal livestock and/or poultry, condemns animals found to be unwholesome as a food source, and/or to eliminate the spread of infectious animal disease in the State of Utah; enforces human handling and slaughter requirements; assures yards, holding areas, and slaughter facilities are maintained in a sanitary condition; makes judgment as to violations of animal health regulations; trains and observes slaughter techniques and procedures of all meat inspectors; trains and assists contract veterinarians in final carcass disposition; serves as a resource to veterinarians, animal owners, various factions of the animal industry, other government agencies, and the public at large regarding animal health issues; provides primary and secondary oversight for assigned animal health and other Division Programs; accomplishes animal health surveillance throughout the State; serves as a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) should an outbreak of a foreign animal disease occur; promotes awareness of possible foreign animal disease risk with veterinary practitioners and with the public; coordinates emergency response measures, training, and preparation in conjunction with animal disease control programs and overall statewide emergency preparedness programs.

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).

All but one veterinarian currently employed by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is within 3 years of retirement age with 2 out of the 5 already past retirement age. In attempts at hiring veterinarians for the department in the past, salary has consistently been the factor that has kept younger veterinarians from accepting offers of employment. Utah Department of Agriculture has worked to get salaries competitive with private industry with limited results. This generally has to do with school loans when trying to attract younger veterinarians into the workforce. This position normally attracts individuals already retired from the workforce in private practice or those that won't meet the physical requirements.

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).

The risk of not being able to fill this position will place at risk the state's meat inspection program which requires trained public health veterinarians to provide dispositions. The position is also critical to the state being able to successfully implement and integrate animal disease traceability efforts. Currently there is not adequate staff to maintain a zoonotic committee representative or to work with emergency and disaster situations.

Education, community support, and youth agricultural leadership development skills are necessary to continue to build the environment this State needs to improve animal health as there is currently a severe lack of professional personnel time to fully promote these important functions.

The federal counterparts in USDA APHIS VS coordinates with the UDAF veterinary staff in many areas and the UDAF veterinarians provide foreign animal disease diagnosticians to augment USDA APHIS VS investigative capabilities. It is imperative that open positions get filled, and with the help of this program, hopefully positions can be filled with skilled individuals who will be seeking the challenge of public health related veterinary service for the foreseeable future.

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 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.