

# 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: Grand & San Juan 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): 4575 Spanish Valley Drive, Moab, and 84532  
(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:**

<p><b>Must cover</b>(check at least one)</p> <p><input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p><b>May cover</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>horses and other equine</u></p>
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**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.

60 %

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).

Invigorate the existing practice in Moab, Utah, in serving the food animal population in San Juan County which is 7,725 square miles, 1,558,661 acres in farms, 231 farms, with yearly livestock sales of \$5.924 million and crop sales of \$1.592 million; and Grand County which is 3,684 square miles, 52,729 acres in farms, 94 farms, with yearly livestock sales of \$1.437 million and crop sales of \$739,000. There are 16,000 head of Beef Cows between the two counties and 6500 head of Sheep. Blue Mountain Meats in Monticello, Utah (San Juan County) is the largest adult sheep slaughter facility in the United States. There is also a large equine population of cattle, roping and pleasure horses. The veterinarian will provide program disease surveillance for such diseases as tuberculosis, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, and outbreak diseases such as vesicular stomatitis. They may be called to perform antemortem and postmortem inspection of animals intended for human consumption at the small, federal and state inspected facilities in the two counties. They will act as a professional resource to the community regarding zoonotic diseases especially endemic to Southeastern Utah. (e.g., plague, hanta virus, rabies, and hydatid disease). The veterinarian will be called on to address the companion animal needs of the ranching and farming communities, along with those needs of the small, rural municipalities in the two counties in reference to their public health.

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, outbreak disease testing and reporting), and meeting interstate shipment requirement of animals leaving the area by writing certificates of veterinary inspection that would require national accreditation. This veterinarian would serve as another set of eyes and ears for the State Veterinarian for any emerging diseases found in livestock in that area. This veterinarian could become another associate with Dr. Len Sorensen who has practiced in that area for twenty five years. The practice is based out of a fixed facility clinic but due to the large geographical area, the majority of the work is done on the ranch. Ambulatory capability is paramount. Dr. Sorensen has been a solo practitioner for most of his career and is nearing retirement age. This veterinarian could also serve in a like capacity at several other clinics in similar situations to the one above. The key is to reduce the financial load on an individual willing to meet the rigors of this lifestyle and way of practice.

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).

Veterinarians have actively sought associates for the past 5 years and has had limited success. The amount of debt incurred by new graduates cannot be addressed in this practice without some assistance from this very program. With the debt relief, one has managed to retain one associate and has recently hired another associate who has indicated a preference to stay if economically feasible. The economy of Grand and San Juan Counties 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. With other associates on board, this area could move toward the veterinary services needed.

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 large geographical area that this practice encompasses, it becomes problematic to have veterinarians where they need to be in reference to cattle movement in that area. A foreign animal disease or emerging disease in this area could go unnoticed for quite some time before detection. That is very troubling to the State Animal Health Official. More professional oversight is essential. 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. Do to the incredibly large land mass and large ranches, these counties need more access to a mobile veterinarian that could provide consultation, education, promotion of necessary vaccination, herd health programs, as well as permanent individual animal identification. Recently we have had an increase in mistake ridden certificates of veterinary inspection as "semi-retired" older veterinarians have been called into this area to write these certificates and they are either way out of practice, uninformed of the new animal disease traceability requirements, or just don't care. We have taken action in multiple cases in veterinarians in this area to correct their mistakes but this puts an undue burden on this regulatory office that is typically short of help. Also the recent FDA Veterinary Feed Directive will increase the demands of local veterinarians to establish veterinary / client / patient relationships to right prescriptions for medicated feeds.

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 0524-0050 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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.