

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 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: Marion, Chase and Morris Counties, KS
(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): At the junction of Marion, Chase and Morris counties, approximately 10 miles South of Wilsey, KS or approximately 20 miles northwest of Strong City, KS
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority High Priority Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

Type I Shortage: Private Practice
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

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: _____

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

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: _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
 Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: _____

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 200 words or less).

An awardee selected for this shortage area is expected by the state of Kansas to devote at least 30% of their professional efforts to food animal veterinary medicine. Veterinary services are currently endangered in this area due to the high ratio of food animals to practitioners.

The overall objective of recruiting or retaining a practitioner in this area is to strengthen existing veterinary-client relationships and be able to service new animal operations in this area. As veterinary services are lost, food animal producers will seek services from untrained individuals or simply do without. While understandable, neither of these options is acceptable to the state of Kansas. The potential negative impact on animal health / welfare, disease control and eradication, consumer food safety and economic viability of animal agriculture operations when producers do not have access to veterinary services is incomprehensible. The direct impact of a veterinarian in this area is that best management practices can be applied in prevention and control of disease.

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 200 words or less).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation would be expected to interact with food animal producers through the establishment of preventative herd health programs and medical, surgical and emergency services. A type II shortage situation is requested (30% food animal practice) due to the seasonal nature of food animal veterinary practice in this area of Kansas and concerns regarding the viability of a food animal exclusive practice in this area. The expected activities of an awardee may include, but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, calf processing (vaccination/dehorning/castration), and dystocia assistance. A veterinarian in this area would also be expected to serve in a regulatory capacity at the farm level participating in import/export activities, certificates of veterinary inspection and cooperative disease programs. An awardee, as a member of the community, would serve as an advocate for animal agriculture through participation in activities such as 4-H, FFA or mentoring young people.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Two clinics have recently hired associate veterinarians with less than 5 years of experience. In Chase County, a veterinarian with less than two years of experience is trying to establish an ambulatory practice. However, immediately to the north, west and south there are metropolitan areas that can offer higher salaries to young practitioners willing to practice companion animal medicine. The proposed shortage area can draw new graduates with an interest in food animal medicine but, with the high costs that new graduates face, the starting and supporting salaries in this area are not enough to retain young veterinarians.

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 250 words or less).

The proposed shortage area covers approximately 2400 sq. miles¹ with a cattle population of 185,000 animals². In this shortage area, the state of Kansas is aware of 8 veterinarians offering large animal services, with two (2) of these veterinarians practicing on a part-time basis. The resulting cattle to practitioner (full-time equivalent) ratio is 26,429:1. The average cow-calf operation in this area is approximately 50-100 cows and the average backgrounding/stocker operation has a typical one time capacity of less than 1000 head. Operations of this type / size cannot be served as efficiently as the

¹ www.quickfacts.census.gov

² http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2010.pdf

larger operations in other areas; therefore the state of Kansas believes that more veterinarians (recruitment) are needed in this area. As stated above, at least 3 veterinarians in this area are recent graduates, thus there is a strong possibility that approval of this shortage area may result in retention of a veterinarian in this service area.

Animal agriculture is the primary economic industry in this area. The long term risk of not recruiting / retaining a veterinarian in this area is loss of these small cattle operations. In other areas of Kansas, shortage areas are often (temporarily) mitigated by veterinarians in surrounding areas. This area is surrounded on 3 sides by more urban areas with few large animal practitioners and on the 4th by another shortage area. A foundational veterinary presence is necessary in this area.

(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 on Page 1, 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.

Box containing a percentage sign (%).

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

- Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week
- Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week
- Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

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: William L. Brown DVM

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

Organization: Division of Animal Health, KS Dept of Ag

Email: William.Brown@kda.ks.gov

Telephone Number: (785) 368-6491
(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.