

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: Allen, Bourbon, Crawford, Cherokee, Labette, Chautauqua, Wilson, Woodson, Neosho, Greenwood, Montgomery, Elk, Butler, Cowley, Sumner Counties-Southeast Kansas (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): SE Kansas APHIS – USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services 1131 SW Winding Rd. Ste. A Topeka, Kansas 66615 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [] High Priority [x] 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: _____

[x] Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

Employer: USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services Position Title: Vet Med. Officer

Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas:

- [] Food Safety [x] Public Health [x] Epidemiology [x] Other: Program and Foreign Animal Disease Surveillance & applied Beef Production

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 will devote at least 70% of their professional efforts to disease surveillance for domestic and foreign animal diseases of concern in food animals and horses. Primarily the awardee provides expertise in surveillance, diagnostics, and epidemiology as it relates to both USDA program diseases and foreign animal diseases. This veterinarian has additional training in epidemiology and collaborates with veterinarians, producers, government entities and allied industries on issues relating to zoonosis/public health and animal health in food animal production systems. These services predominantly effect rural food animal practicing veterinarian and agricultural producers in Southeast Kansas. The incumbent will serve as a resource for training veterinarians and others on epidemiologic and public health issues and investigating possible foreign animal disease outbreaks.

The secondary objective of retaining an awardee is to strengthen existing veterinary-client relationships. The service commitment enables producers and practicing veterinarians to become comfortable with Federal Regulatory Veterinarians and feel comfortable working alongside and reporting possible disease incursions. This relationship will lead to prompt reporting and response to possible disease outbreaks which is imperative in disease control and surveillance. Compliance with current animal health regulations, program disease regulations, and disease reporting will suffer if there is turnover in this position.

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).

This veterinarian primarily interacts with food animal producers and veterinarians. The awardee also assists County Emergency Coordinators develop emergency response plans as they pertain to animal health emergencies, and works closely with local extension offices and Kansas State University to educate livestock producers and veterinarians in new and emerging diseases of concern as well as recognition of Foreign Animal Diseases. This will become increasingly important when the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility is relocated to Kansas. Loan repayment incentives to retain a veterinarian in this position will help strengthen the relationship with practicing veterinarians and producers in this area and provide a long term point of contact and stability between the USDA, livestock producers and practicing veterinarians. Past and ongoing disease concerns in this area include (1) Brucellosis, last found in Neosho County in 1998 before Kansas was declared free in 1999, (2) a well-established feral swine population which threatens area producers – aggressive elimination is being pursued and (3) Trichomoniasis, with six positive herds in the last two years. Foreign Animal Disease Investigations are conducted when requested by local veterinarians with the most common complaint in this area being vesicular diseases.

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).

This position is currently filled, however retention risks exist. A salary disparity exists between veterinarians who work in private practice or industry and those who work for Federal government. Lack of a common point of contact in this position jeopardizes the safety of agriculture in Kansas. A long term hire in this position maintains the needed relationships with veterinarians and producers to ensure prompt and accurate disease surveillance. Turnover in this position leads to delays in training and endangers relationships with necessary stakeholders. Student loan repayment incentives make this position more competitive and potentially stabilize this position.

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).

This area has potential for numerous disease scenarios among a variety of species that could affect a multitude of producers, markets, and veterinarians. The risk to animal agriculture in Kansas and the nation is large, and retaining a quality individual is imperative. Bureau of Land Management has multiple Long Term Holding Facilities in this area. Due to the current APHIS employee's expertise, he's invited to assist in Oklahoma with similar facilities. Southeast Kansas had the last Brucellosis positive herd in Kansas. There are landowners with feral hog populations prohibiting regulatory officials from their property to eradicate feral swine, which places commercial swine herds, especially those with outside facilities, at great risk. A recent case found a cull sow pen that was entered last year by a feral boar that tested positive for pseudorabies. A cervid herd in this area confirmed CWD in a bull elk in 2001 and was depopulated. EHD has been found multiple times in wild deer. This year two Foreign Animal Disease Investigations were conducted on vesicular lesions and diagnosed as Bluetongue Virus positive. Animals flow freely through this area to livestock markets which consolidate livestock from Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas increasing the likelihood of disease transfer. Furthermore, there was a TB positive in this area in 2001 that originated from another state. Mexican origin herds entering this area for summer grazing are potential vectors. These disease outbreak situations underscore the importance of disease surveillance and maintaining a good relationship between regulatory personnel, producers, and veterinarians.

(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.

70%

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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013