

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: Osborne, Lincoln and Ottawa Counties – Northcentral 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): Junction of KS Highways 14 and 284 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

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

[x] 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)

- [x] Beef Cattle [x] Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry [x] 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).

The State of Kansas expects an awardee selected for this shortage area to devote at least 30% of their professional efforts to food animal veterinary medicine. The primary objective of the awardee is to provide medical, surgical, and preventative services to clientele in the area. These services are becoming endangered due to low numbers of practicing veterinarians and impending retirements of current practitioners in the area.

This shortage area was submitted and awarded to an eligible veterinarian during a previous VMLRP cycle (2011). However, because of the already low numbers of veterinarians in this area and the impending retirement of several of these practitioners, the state of Kansas believes that another position for this shortage area would provide long term stability for the food animal producers in the area and would not cause undue competition between VMLRP award recipients.

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 and surgical 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. These seasonal activities 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.

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).

There are currently practices hiring and for sale within the area that have listed advertisements at the KSU – College of Veterinary Medicine and various professional organization (AABP, AASV) websites and newsletters. Additionally, the Lincoln County Economic Development office has tried (unsuccessfully) to recruit veterinarians to this area. Due to the high cost of student loans, it is difficult to bring veterinarians into a rural practice area when salaries in more urban areas are significantly higher. During the 2011 VMLRP cycle, there was significant applicant interest in this position and the state of Kansas believes this area would have a high likelihood of being awarded again.

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 2300 sq. miles¹ with a cattle population of 116,700 animals². Within this area, there are 9 licensed veterinarians³, however, only 6 of these are actively practicing with 2 of these veterinarians expected to retire in the near future. The cattle to practitioner ratio (after these retirements) will be 29,175:1. As this nomination area serves primarily cow-calf producers, small feedyards and small dairy clientele, this is a dangerously high ratio given the number of farms that this encompasses and farm to farm travel time that is required.

As veterinarians are broadly trained in areas such as animal health/management, public health and food safety, the negative consequences of not securing a shortage situation for this area would be equally broad. The most likely threat to this area is economic. As the primary industry in the area is agriculture, a veterinary practice in this area would not only create jobs in the community, but would serve as a cornerstone to protect the viability of the local producers. Veterinary involvement in the production system ensures that: producers receive the most current recommendations for prevention and treatment of infectious disease, food produced is safe, and that disease outbreaks (intentional or accidental) are recognized, reported and mitigated. While other long term

¹ www.quickfacts.census.gov

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

³ Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

solutions to veterinary recruitment must be sought, the state of Kansas believes that a second VMLRP-contracted veterinarian in this area can assist in stabilizing the veterinary presence 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

- Checked box: By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
Checked box: 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
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