

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

Lancaster County, Nebraska

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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):

Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583

(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: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Position Title: Veterinary Diagnostic Microbiologist Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety Public Health Epidemiology Other: Veterinary Diagnostics

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 Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center (NVDC) is an American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) accredited diagnostic laboratory and a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) that serves Nebraska, the region and the nation. In 2012 the NVDC received samples from 40 states across the nation. Food animal cases make up 75% of the NVDC's caseload. The labs' ability to provide high quality diagnostic results requires a recruitment and retention program that attracts the best and brightest veterinary diagnosticians. The training required to become a veterinary diagnostician is extensive and costly as these individuals generally have a DVM and Ph.D. degree, along with Board Certification. Having a Board Certified Veterinary Microbiologist on the staff of the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center clearly enhances the diagnostic capacity of the lab to find solutions to complex disease problems. It also enhances the institution ability to train the next generation of diagnosticians and serves as an important consultative resource for the animal and public health officials, veterinarians, producers and the general public.

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).

The Veterinary Diagnostic Microbiologist is responsible for the supervision of the Microbiology Laboratory in the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center (NVDC) which performs the bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology and molecular diagnostic operations of the NVDC. This individual is expected to lead by participating as the case coordinator, summarizing and reporting laboratory test results, and advising and consulting clients and diagnostic faculty regarding issues in veterinary microbiology. This individual must engage with clientele and work closely with and supervise the NVDC Microbiology Laboratory Manager and staff to assure efficient and accurate operations and shall remain apprised of daily laboratory activities. This individual is expected to lead development and implementation of new tests and technology targeted to serve clientele. This individual is responsible for assuring compliance with AAVLD minimal essentials for accreditation and for the management and reporting of the resources needed for the microbiology section of the NVDC. This individual is expected to make scholarly inquiry into case material and report results in scientific journals.

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).

We conducted national/international searches to identify those individuals who have the knowledge and skills to handle the responsibilities required of a Veterinary Diagnostic Microbiologist. The preferred qualification for this position includes a DVM and PH.D degree. Board Certification in microbiology, experience in veterinary diagnostic and working with food animals are also highly preferred. The competition in the market place for these highly trained individuals is intense as the private sector can often offer higher compensation packets as compared to the public sector.

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 AAVLD accredited Veterinary Diagnostic Labs across the nation form the backbone of the national disease surveillance system. Having a network of public veterinary diagnostic labs in each state provides the capacity to address the disease challenges the nation could face. In addition, these labs address the very important regional differences that are present across the nation. The most important component of the veterinary diagnostic labs is the knowledge and skills of the veterinary diagnostician and laboratory technicians who work in the labs.

The Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center proudly serves the state, region and nation. Being located in the livestock intense heartland of America, Nebraska serves as the crossroads for national livestock movement. Thus, the role of the NVDC in safeguarding the nation's livestock industries and public health is absolutely critical. To successfully meet the challenge the NVDC will need to continue to recruit and retain the very best veterinary diagnostic talent in world.

(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.

65%

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: Dr. Dennis Hughes

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Email: Dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov

Telephone Number: 402-471-2351 or 800-572-2437
(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
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