

# 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](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

Falls, Limestone, and McLennan counties, Texas

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):

Intersection of Hwy 7 and Hwy 6, Marlin, TX 76661

(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).

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the population of beef cattle in Falls, Limestone and McLennan counties was 284,000. The majority of this population is composed of cow/calf and stocker calf operations. In order to meet the veterinary needs of this community, a full-time veterinarian with farm call capability is needed who will devote at least 80% of their time to food animals, with a primary focus on beef cattle operations. The community has an immediate need for a veterinarian to provide consistent and competent veterinary care to numerous beef cattle producers. This nomination is actively supported by producers from Marlin, Eddy, Lorena, Kosse, Chilton and Rosebud communities. Many people derive their living in part or full from animal agriculture. Beef cattle and stocker cattle production are the main source of agriculture income, generating revenue for ranchers and employment for ranch workers, and supporting local small businesses. According to the Texas Almanac, agribusiness is one of the top 4 economic sectors in the area. Beef cattle production comprises the majority of agricultural production in Falls County, with livestock sales accounting for 75% of the gross agricultural income of \$95 million. Beyond caring for the routine needs of these ranches, a food animal veterinarian is needed for surveillance of infectious diseases.

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 working in this area would provide veterinary services required of cow/calf and stocker calf operations. Due to the size and locality of operations in the area, this need can only be met by a food animal veterinarian residing in the area and willing to provide ambulatory services. At present, a large number of producers must routinely go as far as 50 miles away to find a veterinarian, who may only partially meet their needs. Daily activities would include tending to both the individual health concerns of cow/calf operations as well as serving the herd health requirements of stocker calf operations. Such activities include but are not limited to: pregnancy diagnosis, breeding soundness exams, calving assistance, brucellosis vaccinations, veterinary emergency care and general illness care for cow/calf operations. A veterinarian knowledgeable in the health and production of stocker calves is needed to provide herd health evaluation, perform field necropsies, develop treatment and vaccination protocols, and provide disease detection. A veterinarian is a trusted resource with the local communities assisting producers, available for emergencies, and serves as the first line of defense against infectious disease. The veterinarian would be accredited by USDA to perform large animal regulatory duties.

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).

Numerous producers have attempted to locate a food animal veterinarian in Falls and Limestone counties over the past 5 years. A veterinarian with strong interest in food animal medicine relocated to another part of the state approximately 5 years ago, creating a void in the area. Services to some producers in this area is currently provided on an ambulatory basis by the Texas A&M veterinary school, but representatives from the college agree with the need for a permanent, dedicated practitioner in this area and they are willing to assist a recent graduate with placement if one is interested.

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).

An accredited veterinarian will serve as the first line of defense against foreign and emerging animal diseases and will be familiar with the differential diagnosis and proper reporting of any suspected reportable disease. This region of the state helps provide high quality beef for the nation. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are over 116,000 beef cattle in Falls County and 168,000 in nearby Limestone and McLennan counties combined. The 2008 AVMA Veterinary Workforce Data for food animal veterinarians identified this as an area of particularly high concentration of food animals per veterinarian. The region is vital to the beef cattle industry due to the availability of winter grazing that attracts stocker calves from across the state, neighboring states, and Mexico. While calf grazing opportunities provide significant agricultural income to the local economy, the high concentration of animals in this area provides the potential for widespread devastation from a foreign or emerging animal disease. Without qualified food animal veterinary services in the immediate area, producers travel farther for services, or operate with minimal veterinary assistance. Lack of a veterinary presence may result in fewer producers consulting with a professional for vaccination, treatment, and diagnostic assistance.

Use of professional veterinary expertise is critical to the financial viability and success of livestock operations and to the continued production of safe high quality beef.

(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.

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**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: Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA  
(point of contact Holly Hughes-Garza, DVM)

Title: State Veterinarian/Executive Director

Organization: Texas Animal Health Commission

Email: comments@tahc.texas.gov

Telephone Number: 800-550-8242 x718  
(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 9<sup>th</sup> 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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