

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

## Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

### Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for 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 position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: KS115**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Osborne, Lincoln and Ottawa Counties – Northcentral Kansas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Junction of KS Highways 14 and 284

Location of Position:

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other : \_\_\_\_\_

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting 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.

The secondary objective of placing an awardee in this shortage area is to maintain a food animal veterinary presence. As veterinary services are reduced or lost, producers seek needed services from laypersons. Because these individuals lack the professional training of a veterinarian, the livestock economy is endangered when best management practices are no longer recommended. This veterinary presence would be invaluable during an outbreak situation in limiting the financial losses to producers and serving as a point of contact for regulatory authorities.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located 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.

Although companion animal practice activities cannot be used in fulfillment of VMLRP service requirements, the state of Kansas recognizes that these professional activities play a vital role in the viability of a rural practice. We also believe that an increased veterinary presence in this area will positively impact public health as a result of increased vaccination and sterilization (spay/neuter) compliance.

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 not been able to bring in a new associate. These practices have listed advertisements at the KSU – College of Veterinary Medicine and various professional organization (AABP, AASV) websites and newsletters. 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. Additionally, the Lincoln County Economic Development office has tried (unsuccessfully) to recruit veterinarians to this area.

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. miles<sup>1</sup> with a cattle population of 116,700 animals<sup>2</sup>. Within this area, there are 8 licensed veterinarians<sup>3</sup>, however, 4 of these veterinarians are 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

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<sup>1</sup> [www.quickfacts.census.gov](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/ff2010.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2010.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

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.

If recent / new graduate veterinarians cannot be recruited to this area, livestock producers will be forced to seek professional services from the surrounding areas which will increase the burden on those practitioners and potentially create a broader shortage area situation.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: William L. Brown

Title: Livestock Commissioner

Organization: Kansas Animal Health Department

Email: wbrown@kahd.ks.gov

Telephone Number: 785-296-2326  
(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, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046  
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