

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

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: AZ111

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.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: State of Arizona
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: 1688 West Adams
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(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: State of Arizona Position Title: State Veterinarian, Assistant State Veterinarian and/or
Public Health Veterinarian

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Administration

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 objective of this position is to help to recruit and retain a public practice veterinarian for the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) and/or the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). The following three positions are currently vacant, would qualify for consideration under this Type III Shortage and are full time employees.

Arizona State Veterinarian – Chief Livestock Health Official (ADA)

Arizona Assistant State Veterinarian (ADA)

Arizona Public Health Veterinarian (ADHS)

The overall responsibilities of these positions have increased considerably with more emphasis on assisting county health departments to build capacity towards addressing disease surveillance, prevention and control needs related to zoonotic diseases. Some contact with county health officers is expected to help local health departments be better prepared to address vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. The State of Arizona has experienced record numbers of reported rabid animals. These veterinarians are expected to make independent decisions and judgments and are expected to be available for after hour's consultation and to be on-call, as needed. ADA veterinarians must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine within the state. The state veterinarian manages the Animal Health and Welfare program and is the Chief Veterinary Meat Inspector of the State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program.

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).

The State Veterinarian utilizes independent judgment and discretion in their duties relating to the prevention of animal diseases within the State of Arizona, in determining the application of quarantines, testing or destruction of restricted animals, and in the issuance of animal import permits in variance with established rules and regulations. This position has direct/indirect oversight of 31 employees and manages an annual budget of 1.8 million. The Assistant State Veterinarian duties include: direct supervision of field personnel at livestock markets, metropolitan areas and rural areas where they are engaged in activities of prevention and detection of animal diseases; investigation of suspected animal neglect and cruelty; performing meat and poultry inspection activities and collection of diagnostic and surveillance samples at slaughter plants; performing investigations of animal disease outbreaks suspected of being a foreign animal disease; works with livestock producers on food safety quality assurance, bio-security, environmental quality assurance and emergency preparedness. The Public Health Veterinarian is responsible for the oversight of surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic diseases of public health importance. They provide veterinary and epidemiologic expertise to public health officials, animal control agencies, veterinarians and others on zoonotic and other diseases. All work with colleagues in other states and Mexico.

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).

The Department of Agriculture has advertised to fill the two vacant positions in the department and received few qualified applications for the positions. The Department of Health Services has not advertised to fill their vacant position. Currently, these positions remain vacant due to budgetary constraints of the state general fund appropriations. The applicant pool for these positions should be enhanced if the positions are designated as a Type III Shortage. The Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture may explore the dual appointment of the successful applicant or the combining of public health duties into the State Veterinarian 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).

Maintaining disease free herds and flocks is critical to maintaining market access for live animals and consumer confidence in meat, milk and eggs. Maintaining close cooperation on zoonotic disease surveillance, prevention and control is critical to the health and agriculture departments. This cooperation extends to local health departments, other state departments including Sonora, Mexico, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every effort must be made to recruit and retain veterinary public health expertise in this international border state that is also home to 21 Tribal Nations. Accredited food animal veterinarians and public practice veterinarians form a seamless regulatory system that ensures the herd and flock health that allows for the sale of live animals and animal derived products in local, national and international markets. This seamless veterinary infrastructure also protects public health, enhances food safety and security and better prepares the state and region to respond to any emergency that affects the human and animal populations

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. [LEAVE BLANK – NOT FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2010]

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: John W Hunt, DVM
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(Area code required)

John W. Hunt

Type Name

3-07-2010

Date

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 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.