

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: TX116

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.

Hamilton, Mills, Coryell, and Lampasas counties – Central Texas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

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

Center of Service Area or

Intersection of US Hwy 281 and TX 36, Hamilton, TX

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 primary objective in this area is to provide veterinary services for food animals, being available on a mobile basis both during normal business hours and after hours. The veterinarian will offer adequate facilities, equipment and supplies to handle any veterinary situation with livestock species, and the knowledge base to identify and properly treat both routine and complex animal health issues. The veterinarian may also provide service and veterinary expertise to a local livestock market. The veterinarian, as able, may also provide mobile services to other counties surrounding this four-county area. Being a valued member of the community, education of livestock owners and the youth of the community on proper animal care is expected. This could include involvement in civic organizations, assisting with planning and response to local disasters affecting animals, and speaking at local functions.

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).

Daily activities would include primarily work with beef cattle, including but not limited to handling reproductive issues, dystocias, prolapses, treated down cows, c-sections, calfhood vaccinations, Coggins testing, and routine animal health disease prevention and maintenance. In the context of working with the livestock market, the veterinarian also provides health certificates, first-point Brucellosis testing, pregnancy palpation, ageing of livestock, breeding soundness exams, trichomoniasis testing and routine procedures like vaccination, deworming, dehorning, castration and branding. Working odd hours and working during inclement weather are inherent to the job. The veterinarian would maintain active accreditation with the USDA and a sound understanding of the diagnosis and prompt/proper reporting of any suspected foreign or reportable animal disease. In addition, many of the accredited veterinarian duties require training and approval of the state veterinarian, and the recipient would maintain all necessary continuing education.

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).

After years of widespread concern among ranchers about availability of food animal services in this area, one recent graduate was recruited who spends about 90% of his time treating food animals. Particularly valued are the mobile and after-hours services. However, there is concern that it is difficult to recruit and retain veterinarians who will spend a high percentage of time treating food animals and have the practical expertise to serve community on a permanent basis. Many veterinarians who do settle in the area focus on small animals, likely due to financial and lifestyle concerns.

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).

This area's economy relies heavily on agriculture, with the 2007 Census of Agriculture reporting over \$46 million in livestock sales in Hamilton County alone. According to the same Census, there were over 200,000 cattle and 100,000 sheep, lambs, and goats in these four counties combined. The state received handwritten shortage nominations from a total of 59 people in this area, including 39 ranchers and representatives from two livestock markets. State and federal veterinary infrastructure provides an organized and effective response capacity throughout the state for any foreign, emerging, or zoonotic disease threat, and also holds the ultimate responsibility for maintaining the valuable safe and wholesome food supply that is currently produced in the state of Texas and exported nationally and internationally. However, private veterinary practitioners serve crucial functions in the early recognition of foreign and other significant animal disease problems, as well as educating livestock producers about

appropriate animal care practices, judicious use of over-the-counter drugs and remedies, and disease recognition and reporting. A decrease in the number of veterinarians directly and frequently inspecting livestock, and an increase in geographic distance between veterinary care and animal populations, over time could lead to an overall decrease in productivity and increased production costs. These consequences have potential effects on the long-term value and quality of animal products that we currently enjoy.

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.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA
(point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)
State Veterinarian/Executive Director

Title: _____
Texas Animal Health Commission

Organization: _____
comments@tahc.state.tx.us

Email: _____
800-550-8242 x718

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

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