



**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 Epidemiologist at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) has a dual appointment with the Department of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Wyoming. Thus the objectives for this position include epidemiology services as part of disease diagnostic cases (e.g. describing an outbreak, analyzing contributory causes, and developing recommendations to prevent similar future outbreaks) as well as teaching, serving on graduate student committees and conducting epidemiological research. The bulk of this position's responsibilities are directly related to food animal and/or public health.

This position is held at WSVL in Laramie (Albany County), WY but serves the entire state. WSVL is the only veterinary diagnostic lab in the state and this position is the only veterinary epidemiologist in the state (the state health department has a Public Health Veterinarian with very different duties).

**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).**

This veterinarian would conduct epidemiologic investigations of disease outbreaks throughout Wyoming. The vast majority of such outbreaks occur in food animals and/or wildlife. Thus, well over 50% of investigations would be related to food animal disease. The veterinarian would also teach undergraduate, preveterinary, and graduate students epidemiologic techniques. Finally, this person will conduct epidemiologic research to help us understand and manage or control important diseases of food animals. Many of the food animal diseases of concern also have a wildlife component; of particular concern in Wyoming are diseases transmitted between wildlife and livestock such as brucellosis (elk to cattle) and pasteurellosis (domestic sheep to bighorn sheep).

This epidemiologist must also educate producers, wildlife managers and practicing veterinarians about eliminating or minimizing disease risks as well as how to deal with outbreaks when they occur. The person will need to attend meetings across the state to fulfill this education and outreach aspect.

Understanding intra and inter species disease transmission risks will help livestock production become more sustainable, and will also help wildlife managers maintain healthy wildlife populations. Additionally, many of these diseases of concern are zoonotic, thus this epidemiologist indirectly helps protect human health.

**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 state of Wyoming instituted a student loan repayment program to recruit new food animal veterinarians moving into underserved areas in 2008. Diagnostic positions at WSVL were identified as such an area. We were successful in recruiting a veterinary pathologist to WSVL in 2008. At this time, WSVL has sufficient veterinary pathologists to meet Wyoming's needs; however we remain concerned about the ability of the lab to retain the services of an epidemiologist.

**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).**

It is critical that the State of Wyoming have a good Veterinary Epidemiologist. Most of our food animal diseases of concern are those whose epidemiology is poorly understood (trichomoniasis and BVD), are transmitted among livestock herds, or are transmitted between livestock and wildlife (brucellosis of bison and elk and pasteurellosis of bighorn sheep). Epidemiology is a critical tool for preventing or controlling these outbreaks.

If outbreaks of brucellosis cannot be controlled, some cattle producers of the state may go bankrupt. Subsequently, their ranches may be sold and subdivided. This would not only reduce the nation's food supply but would impact the nation's wildlife reservoir and destroy some very scenic areas around national treasures including Yellowstone National Park.

If outbreaks of pasteurellosis in bighorn sheep cannot be controlled, there will be major impacts to domestic sheep producers. These outbreaks are poorly understood, but some wildlife advocates believe the disease is being transmitted to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep and are making demands to remove domestic sheep from area where range may be shared with bighorn.

If that occurs, sheep producers will be forced out of business. This would affect the sheep industry, meat and wool production and would also lead to ranches being sold and subdivided with the same sequelae described above.

**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.**

We were unable to locate solicitation information on these agreements. While we believe the area may qualify for a “service in emergency” agreement we also note that the Epidemiology shortage is a long-term problem and must be solved for the long term.

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