

# 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.**

**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: Montezuma, La Plata and Dolores Counties, Colorado  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Cortez, CO 81321  
(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).

One of the objectives of a veterinarian in this rural area would be to alleviate the veterinary practitioner shortage that exists. They would work to sustain livestock industries and promote animal health in three southwestern Colorado counties; Dolores, La Plata and Montezuma. These counties have more than 56,000 food animals including numerous beef herds, goat and sheep flocks. Currently there are three food animal specific veterinarians in this region which represents an area greater than 4700 square miles. Meeting this objective will improve food safety, animal health and public health.

The second objective would be to increase disease surveillance in this area. These counties make up the southwestern most area of Colorado. Distance, terrain and limited personnel resources all diminish the ability to monitor both state and national diseases. Veterinarians in these areas strengthen the ability for surveillance. Having an additional veterinarian will help the state identify and mitigate disease outbreaks sooner.

Another objective is to recognize foreign animal disease in the area. This position will participate as a member of the Colorado Veterinary Response team. An additional veterinarian in this area helps to maintain resiliency of Colorado livestock and the nation's food supply in the event of an outbreak.

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 veterinary activities needed by the livestock producers in this three county area include:

- Provision of emergency veterinary services; for example livestock health care needs resulting from acute illness, trauma, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties
- Provision of routine veterinary services; for example vaccination, castration or dehorning
- Consultation in health care programs and nutrition
- Disease diagnostics for routine illness
- Utilizing official animal identification for good traceability
- Disease surveillance and diagnostics for state and federal program diseases and for foreign animal diseases
- Completion of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that meets all animal health testing requirements needed in order to ship livestock for healthier interstate commerce
- Provision of reproduction management consultation and services
- Participates as a member of the Colorado Veterinary Response team to help protect the nation's food supply.

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).

Veterinarians in these areas have utilized the national Veterinary Career Network and Colorado Veterinary Medical Association to entice veterinarians to this area. Local practices have also advertised at Colorado State University and offered intern and externships. Despite this, graduate veterinarians have seen little incentive to practice or offer services within this area. Currently local practices are actively recruiting veterinarians both in Colorado and from other states. By offering monetary incentive and debt relief through the VMLRP program local practices are able to provide additional incentives.

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 risks associated with a lack of available veterinary services within a reasonable proximity of a producer's location in these areas could include:

- A greater prevalence of disease, which increases reproductive losses, increases the morbidity and mortality of food animals and leads to monetary loss for the producer and the community.
- The potential for the establishment and spread of a foreign animal disease due to the lack of timely surveillance and participation in Colorado emergency management activities
- The potential for the establishment and spread of a program or zoonotic disease due to the lack of timely surveillance and diagnostics
- A lack of the facilitation of interstate movement of animals through the issuance of a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or commuter agreements
- Adulteration of food products due to the producer's lack of knowledge on the proper use of pharmaceuticals and veterinary biologic products
- Increased production costs resulting from a lack of consultation on nutrition, proper herd management and routine disease control
- With little veterinary presence in the area the detection of FAD or lesser disease outbreak may increase the spread of disease.

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:

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OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046

Expiration Date: 8/31/2013