

# 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: Coffey, Greenwood, Elk, Woodson, Wilson and Chautauqua Counties – Southeast Kansas (1)  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Junction of US Highway 400 and KS Highway 39  
(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).

An awardee selected for this shortage area is expected by the state of Kansas 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 increasingly difficult for cattle producers to obtain due to the nature of practice type in this area and a high animal to practitioner ratio.

The secondary objective of placing / retaining an awardee in this shortage area is to strengthen existing veterinary-client relationships. The service commitment required of awardees enables producers to work closely with a veterinarian to build long-term plans and goals for their livestock operation. As animal welfare, food safety and traceability continue to change food animal agriculture, the alliance between veterinarian and producer will become increasingly important. These relationships would be an invaluable resource to regulatory agents in the event of an intentional/accidental foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak situation.

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. Kansas is a state of beef production, and in this shortage area beef production is mostly either cow-calf or stocker-background operations. These seasonal activities may include, but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, reproductive support such as pregnancy examinations, calf vaccination/dehorning/castration, dystocia assistance, setting up preventative programs and providing individual animal veterinary treatment. In this specific shortage area, there has already been a migration away from veterinary-provided services in the areas of pregnancy exams and production medicine because of the inability to recruit and retain associates into the area to replace a generation nearing retirement. Loan repayment incentives to the new graduate will reduce the pressure to be sustainable in the first few years of practice.

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. There are also practices within the area who have hired new associates within the past 4 years that would like to be able to retain them. Due to the high cost of student loans, it is hard to bring veterinarians into a rural practice area when they can be hired elsewhere for \$10,000 to \$15,000 more per year.

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 4100 sq. miles<sup>1</sup> with a cattle population of 291,500 animals<sup>2</sup>. Within this area, there are 15 licensed veterinarians<sup>3</sup>. The cattle to practitioner ratio (assuming all these veterinarians are food animal practitioners) is currently 19,433:1. As this nomination area serves primarily cow-calf producers and small dairy clientele, this is a dangerously high ratio given the number of farms that this encompasses and farm to farm travel time that is required. The state of Kansas believes that this specific shortage area warrants 2 nominations.

As the primary industry in the area is agriculture, a veterinary practice (or one made more sustainable through this program) would serve as a cornerstone to protect the viability of the local producers.

<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

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 are recognized and reported.

If this area cannot recruit / retain veterinarians, public health will be predictably threatened. 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 BOTH the overall public health of the area (as a result of increased vaccination and sterilization (spay/neuter) compliance) AND the viability of the practice (the rural practice needs to be broad enough to be sustainable in the "off" season).

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: William L. Brown DVM

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

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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.