

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.

Morton and Stanton Counties – Southwest Kansas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

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

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position:

15 miles south of Johnson City, KS on KS Highway 27

_____ (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 endangered due to low number of practicing veterinarians and the recent unexpected death of a local practitioner. The situation will become more severe in the near future due to the expected expansion of new dairies into southwest Kansas if veterinarians cannot be recruited to this area.

The secondary objective of placing an awardee in this shortage area is to maintain a food animal veterinary presence. The high number of concentrated feeding operations / expected dairy operations in this area translates to a high risk of targeting by bioterrorism. Veterinarians integrated into the production team would be an invaluable resource to regulatory agents in the event of a foreign animal disease 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. These seasonal activities may include, but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, calf processing (vaccination/dehorning/castration), and dystocia assistance. A veterinarian in this area would also be expected to serve in a regulatory capacity at the farm level participating in import/export activities, certificates of veterinary inspection and cooperative disease programs.

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 the viability of a rural practice. We also believe that an increased veterinary presence in this area will positively impact public health as a result of increased vaccination and sterilization (spay/neuter) compliance.

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 town of Elkhart, KS offered incentives (practice inventory and guaranteed salary) but was unable to recruit a veterinarian to the area. In the past, practices have attempted to hire within the area that have not been able to bring in a new associate. These practices have listed advertisements at the KSU – College of Veterinary Medicine and various professional organization (AABP, AASV) websites and newsletters. Due to the high cost of student loans, it is difficult to bring veterinarians into a rural practice area when salaries in more urban areas are significantly higher.

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 1400 sq. miles¹ with a cattle population of 70,300 animals². Within this area, there is currently only 1 licensed, practicing veterinarian³. In this situation, local producers are left with one of two options. Either they must choose to go without veterinary services

¹ www.quickfacts.census.gov

² http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2010.pdf

³ Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

or they are forced to seek veterinary service from surrounding areas. If producers go without these services, the consequences effect not only the individual operation, but potentially the local, regional, national and international consumers of food products from this area. Lack of veterinary involvement could result in human illness / deaths, large-scale food recalls, or loss of international trade opportunities. The involvement of a veterinarian in the production system would significantly decrease the risk to consumers and the local agricultural economy.

If livestock producers in this area seek the services of surrounding veterinary practices, they do so at increased expense to their operation. This increases the burden on the surrounding practices and creates the potential for an even broader veterinary shortage area. This type of arrangement may be a suitable short-term solution, but it does not foster the type of veterinarian-client-patient relationship that the state of Kansas desires for its livestock producers.

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

Organization: Division of Animal Health, Kansas Dept of Ag

Email: William.Brown@kda.ks.gov

Telephone Number: (785) 368-6491
(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.