

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: Hall (Main County of Need), Hamilton, Adams, Buffalo, Sherman and Howard Counties, Nebraska
 (e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Alda, Nebraska 68810
 (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 : ___Equine_____

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 objectives of the veterinarian filling the shortage situation would be to assist in maintaining and improving overall animal welfare; maintaining the health of animals that contribute to an abundant, wholesome food supply; and maintaining and improving the veterinarian to food animal ratio. Further objectives would be to fulfill the obligations of regulatory medicine for state and federal governments. The state hopes to mitigate vulnerability to emerging animal diseases by maintaining an appropriate veterinarian to animal ratio.

Six counties are requested for designation to represent the radius covered by a practice located in the central part of Hall County, the main county of shortage within this request. According to NASS, there are about 87,710 head of cattle and over 5,000 head of swine in Hall County. State of Nebraska licensure records show 17 veterinarians for Hall County, but at least five are of retirement age. According to information presented to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, only one of the remaining 12 is practicing food animal care; the remainder of the veterinarians practice companion animal and/or equine care. It is expected a veterinarian applying for this position would devote 40 to 50 percent of his/her time to food animal medicine.

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 activities of the veterinarian filling the shortage situation in this area would be those of a skilled veterinary practitioner who could assist in maintaining and improving the overall health of the food animal population in Hall County and the surrounding area, with particular emphasis on beef cattle needs. The veterinarian in this position would improve the overall veterinarian to food animal ratio, thereby allowing for more time with clients for routine animal care, as well allowing for improved response time to animal emergencies in this veterinary-deficient practice area. In addition to routine and animal emergency care, a veterinarian is needed for continued service at a major livestock auction market in the coverage area.

This veterinarian also would be expected to become proficient in regulatory medicine to assist state and federal officials in protecting against domestic and foreign contagious animal diseases.

The activities of this veterinarian will assist in developing and maintaining a community of sustainable food animal producers by delivering preventative medicine and conducting activities with clients that lead to an overall healthy, productive livestock herd. This includes conducting seminars that teach the Beef Quality Assurance program, or address livestock health needs, such as immunization protocols and cattle handling.

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).

In Hall County there is only one clinic that practices food animal care. One partner of the two-veterinarian clinic retired in 2007 and the remaining partner has struggled to find a veterinarian to fill the retiring partner's role. A young veterinarian was recruited in 2009, but left after only a year and a half to work on small animal care at a different clinic.

The clinic finally recruited a new veterinarian last year, but there is some concern about being able to retain this veterinarian.

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).

There is concern that the recently-hired veterinarian may not be able to stay because it is difficult to fund the position at a level to meet educational debt needs. If this veterinarian cannot be retained, the area will be underserved, particularly the cattle producers within Hall County. This poor food animal to veterinarian ratio could adversely affect the welfare of food animals and negatively impact our safe, abundant food supply. Without adequate veterinarian expertise in this area, the state would lose the necessary skills that educate current and future producers on how to manage their animals; give producers the knowledge that allows them to better care for their livestock; and helps ensure a rapid response in the event of a disease situation.

Clients need access to sound veterinary advice and service related to practices that can improve the quality and integrity of their food animals. The importance of this point is bolstered by the fact that Nebraska regularly ranks at the top in annual red meat production and commercial cattle slaughter. Our state also is a major exporter of live animals and meats, so quality veterinary care that translates into healthy livestock is not just important for the veterinary clinics, but important for consumers in the state, nation and world who receive the end food product.

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.

NA in 2012 round.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Dennis Hughes

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Nebraska Department of Agriculture

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Telephone Number: 402-471-2351 or 800-572-2437
(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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