



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
 US Department of Agriculture
 OMB Information Collection
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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: New Mexico
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Santa Fe/Albuquerque, NM
(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: State of New Mexico or other public health agency Position Title: Veterinary Epidemiologist
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Emerging infectious disease surveillance

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).

A veterinarian in this position will dedicate at least 50% of their time to public health practice in all 33 counties in New Mexico (NM). The objectives of this veterinarian will be to: conduct surveillance for emerging infectious diseases, work with public health and veterinary laboratories to evaluate disease testing practices and new diagnostic tests, guide public health education among (human and animal) health practitioners and hospitals; provide guidance during public health emergencies; assist with development of protocols to address outbreaks of infectious disease and provide educational opportunities for the public. The veterinarian in this position will be available to serve the community, including the veterinary technician programs, medical school and schools of public health within the state. Considering the NM population, a bilingual veterinarian who is familiar with NM culture would be beneficial. This veterinarian will play a role in national disease surveillance through collaborating with partners such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This veterinarian will be located centrally but will travel throughout the state providing public health assistance where needed and coordinating efforts with the NM Department of Health, regional health offices, the Department of Homeland Security, the NM Department of Agriculture and other agencies.

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).

To meet the objectives listed above the veterinarian meeting the shortage situation will:

- Establish surveillance systems to monitor for emerging infectious diseases of public health significance
- Evaluate existing surveillance systems to identify areas for improvement
- Conduct active surveillance and case-finding
- Work with public health and veterinary laboratories to evaluate disease testing practices and new diagnostic tests
- Implement epidemiologic studies to gather information and prevent spread of disease
- Collect, analyze and interpret epidemiologic data related to outbreaks and day to day data review
- Assist with the education of students at universities, schools of public health and other programs, through guest lectures and curriculum design, when needed
- Develop and provide educational materials regarding emerging infectious disease to the public
- Provide subject matter expertise and conduct investigations into human and animal fatalities and illnesses
- Answer inquiries from the public, veterinarians and medical providers
- Coordinate with national disease surveillance partners

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).

Currently, New Mexico only has two designated public health veterinarians who are able to assist with food safety, epidemiology and public health throughout the state. Recruitment of another public health veterinarian has been restricted because of lack of funding, especially during times of economic crises. Veterinarians in this position have not always stayed in the position a significant amount of time; cost of living for veterinarians, especially those who have recently graduated and those who are centrally located in New Mexico, can be prohibitive. Furthermore, many veterinarians in public health practice have loans from graduate programs (e.g. Masters in Public Health) in addition to their veterinary school loans which can cause financial hardship if income received is not adequate to cover the cost of living and loan repayment.

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).

New Mexico has unique diseases that cause illness and death when public health practices are not implemented. NM has a unique population consisting of minority populations. Disease investigation can be challenging due to the vast geography and rural nature of the state. If this position is not secured, disease surveillance for many infectious diseases will be delayed or non-existent. Community education, outreach and planning for public health emergency response are limited. A veterinarian is needed to provide consultation and lend public health expertise to health professionals, agricultural industry and educational institutions in the 33 NM counties.

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:

Name: Dave E. Fly, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

Email: Dave.fly@state.nm.us

Telephone Number: 505-841-6161
(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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