

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: Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Hartley & Moore Counties - Texas Panhandle
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Intersection of Hwy 54 and Hwy 87, Dalhart, Texas
(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).

A veterinarian in this area would be on the frontline of food safety, human and animal health protection. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture and the 2008 AVMA database, the concentration of food animals in Dallam, Hansford, Hartley and Moore counties is 963,817. This is equivalent to 87,619 animals per veterinarian. Since those reports, the listed counties have seen tremendous growth in the dairy sector. Dallam County is home to a cheese manufacturing plant that expanded to accommodate 4.5 million pounds of milk per day, as per company representatives. It is estimated that between 2007 and 2010, approximately 47,300 dairy animals were added to the above listed counties. Local practices report dairy work has increased even more in the last 2 years due to expansion of existing dairies. Veterinarians already practicing in this area have stated that three additional veterinarians could spend one hundred percent of their time in food animal practice. Additionally, a future need for food animal veterinarians, projected to be two to three veterinarians per year, is necessary to sustain the projected growth in the dairy industry. The awardee should expect to spend a minimum of 80% of their time doing beef and dairy work.

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 skill set needed to interact with the progressive clientele of dairy, feedlot and swine is unique. A veterinarian must have experience with population medicine and understand epidemiology in order to design proper preventative vaccination, treatment and training programs for employees. Additionally, veterinarians must be able to analyze records to identify health and production trends as well as develop partial budgets for new interventions. At the same time, veterinarians must be engaged with the daily routines of the farm and handle routine work such as pregnancy determination, surgery, emergency calls and all regulatory duties. This would include performing duties as a USDA accredited veterinarian, participation in state regulatory programs and reportable disease surveillance. This practitioner would be expected to serve as a first line of defense against foreign animal disease. There may be opportunities for a veterinarian to join an existing practice in this area.

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 the area report difficulty in recruiting since at least 2004. Multiple practices have attempted to recruit to meet growing demand, as well as replace retiring veterinarians in recent years. A variety of means have included advertisement and working with the Texas A&M Veterinary School. There is a five-year-old summer veterinary student internship program, and opportunities for senior veterinary students to participate in resident externships throughout the year. A veterinarian received a VMLRP award in this area in 2010 but has since left the area. Local input was provided that indicated an ongoing challenge in recruiting additional veterinarians.

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).

This region is vital to the supply of milk, beef and pork to the U.S. consumer. From the perspective of food safety, veterinarians in this area participate in drug residue avoidance. While the high concentration of animals in this area provides efficiencies in producing a safe and affordable food product, the potential for widespread devastation from a foreign or emerging disease is high. Specific concerns include avian & swine influenza, foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever. Additionally, disease eradication efforts including Brucellosis and Tuberculosis require constant

attention. As this area encompasses the northern border of the panhandle region, interstate movement of animals is a constant activity so a larger region of the US is really served by this veterinarian. Private practitioners play a crucial role in detection of possible foreign animal disease. Delay of even 24-48 hours in detection of a foreign animal disease in this area could have crippling effects on the US economy as well as causing widespread restrictions on international trade.

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:

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