

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: Garza, Borden, Lynn, Crosby counties, Texas
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Intersection of Hwy 84 and TX 380 - Post, TX 79356
(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).

With these 4 counties making up an area of 3,593 total square miles, a veterinarian in this area is expected to not only devote at least 30% of their time to food animal care, but travel many miles to serve clientele. The primary objective of a veterinarian in this area is to provide overall veterinary services along with evaluation and education regarding food animal health and regulations. Because access to local food animal veterinary care has recently been re-established in the area after the local mixed-animal practitioner passed away in 2005, the veterinarian must serve as a champion for veterinary care and treatment, a management partner to producers, and an educator to the community regarding threats and preventive measures. Establishing relationships is crucial. The veterinarian will serve as first in line of defense against any disease or emergency. The awardee is expected to maintain continuing education and accreditation with the USDA. Garza County is a rural area with a human population of 6,46 in 2010, and was home to 11,972 head of cattle including calves according to the 2007 USDA NASS inventory, with an additional 13,661 in Borden county, 4,197 in Lynn and 13,328 in Crosby.

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).

Percentage of food animal work is expected to be at least 30% which includes routine activities such as soundness exams, pregnancy detection, vaccine management, herd health management and testing. Paperwork such as health certificates and inter & intrastate movement will be major part of this area's need. Basic understanding of food animal health is required. Day-to-day activities may include palpating cows, trichomoniasis testing, brucellosis and tuberculosis testing, castration, dystocias and other herd work. Caesarian sections and management of urinary calculi in small ruminants, as well as routine bleeding, castration, hernia repairs and dystocias in swine may also be needed. Work will involve long hours in any type of weather and terrain and frequent travel to surrounding 3 counties in shortage area. A veterinarian should be able to communicate with producers about rules, regulations, and creating a management plan. Along with serving as an outstanding member and leader of the community, the veterinarian will be expected to maintain relationships with local agriculture groups such as 4-H and FFA youth. Public speaking regarding food animal health will be encouraged.

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 local vet in Post passed away in 2005 leaving the community traveling up to 30-45 miles to surrounding areas with veterinary care. During the next 5 years, the vet's widow offered numerous incentives such as owner financing, remodeling, numerous price reductions, and inclusive offers to sell the practice with no luck. Veterinarians as far away as Lubbock helped keep annual events such as rabies drives occurring in the community. In 2010, a new veterinarian took the risk to open a mixed practice in Post. Local ranchers supplied first year membership in Post Chamber of Commerce for the new practice.

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 sole practitioner in this area is the only veterinarian within 30 miles of Post, TX and retention of this service is important. The VMLRP program was started just after the new veterinarian established his practice in the area. With a huge amount of debt including not only student loans, but business loans needed to open a mixed animal practice in this low economic time, this is a high risk endeavor. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, livestock sales in Garza County have tripled since 2002. With over 500 operating farms in this 4-county shortage area, losing what veterinary service is now offered could be devastating. Without financial help, the veterinarian who already services this shortage area may be forced to find alternative income or leave the area. Garza County alone produces \$18 million annual average income from agriculture of which almost 40% is from cattle and hogs. By providing reliable, cost-effective care, the current veterinarian shows the number of food animal clientele to be rising. A decrease in the number of veterinarians directly and frequently inspecting livestock, and an increase in geographic distance between veterinary care and animal populations, over time could lead to an overall decrease in productivity and increased production costs, as well as a lag in diagnosing contagious diseases.

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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 (point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)

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