

# 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: Lamar County, Texas  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Intersection of Hwy 271 and US 82, Paris, TX 75460  
(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).

Lamar County is home to a significant but shrinking number of dairies. However, a large producer is expanding and it is projected there may be as many as 10,000 additional dairy animals in the county in future years. In 2007, the NASS reported over \$5 million in sales of milk and other dairy products from Lamar County. Dairy animals currently receive limited access to veterinary care within the county, as practitioners travel in from outside the county to provide services. A small number of mixed animal practitioners are available (three food veterinarians for the 85,124 food animals and no ambulatory services.) Those mixed practitioners are significantly reducing services to food animals due to the veterinarians' age, health status, and lifestyle concerns. There are currently no dairy-focused practices in this county. Consequently, dairy herds may not receive easily accessible daily care or the emergency services necessary to sustain a healthy dairy operation. A veterinarian in this position would spend at least 50% of his/her time working with dairy animals.

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 awardee will help producers develop herd health programs to ensure optimal animal care, and safety for dairy animals and their resulting products. Routine vaccination programs, other preventive care, as well as emergency care will be more accessible. The constant care and oversight of a veterinarian will help create herd health programs to ensure safety of milk and other dairy products from the region. Routine vaccination programs, as well as emergency care, to protect animal health will be accessible to the local dairy herds through access to ambulatory services. Routine testing and examinations will lead to better control and prevention of diseases, ultimately leading to a better product being produced by the animals. Pregnancy-related diagnosis and management will be critical. Other support may include sample collection for culture and management of mastitis in addition to routine reproductive management. The veterinarian will serve as an advocate for judicious use of antibiotics and observation of appropriate drug withdrawal times. The veterinarian will maintain all state and federal accreditation and certifications needed to perform regulatory disease functions such as TB and brucellosis-related activities.

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).

Job ads have been placed in publications and at universities by a local dairy producer but responses have been limited and student loan debt cited as a factor by at least three qualified job applicants. Retaining quality veterinary care within the county has been a challenge as vets have spent time there but chosen to go into other areas of practice or other geographic areas.

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).

Expanding dairy veterinary services in Lamar County, TX will lead to more immediate responses to illnesses and decreased travel time for producers with ill animals. The increased knowledge about the animals being cared for and a closer relationship with the producers will allow the practitioner to serve as the first line of defense against any foreign animal disease as well. Milk from this region is transported into the Dallas area, processed, and the resulting food product is distributed nationally. Easy access to local care, compared to a remote veterinarian coming into the county on a very limited basis, would ensure improved animal care and health so that a safe, wholesome food supply is

produced. Maintaining quality dairy practices in the state is a priority for many reasons, including maintaining the TB-free status of Texas cattle through USDA-accredited veterinarians.

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: Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA  
(point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)

Title: State Veterinarian/Executive Director

Organization: Texas Animal Health Commission

Email: comments@tahc.state.tx.us

Telephone Number: 800-550-8242 x718  
(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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046  
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