VMLRP Shortage ID Code: WY122

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

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: Southern Carbon County, Wyoming
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Saratoga, WY 82331
(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).

Carbon County, WY contains 96,238 food animals and 2 practicing food animal veterinarians (48,119 food animals/veterinarian; AVMA website Dec. 2008). The situation is even worse for southern Carbon County; there are no full time veterinarians that offer any food animal services in any Carbon County cities or towns other than Rawlins, WY (western Carbon County). None, one or two veterinarians (depending on the year and season) will spend one to two days a week in southern Carbon County. This area often experiences severe winter weather, thus it is often inaccessible from outside. Much of the time the area has no veterinary services whatsoever. We will use this program to attract a new veterinarian who would conduct a high workload directed at food animal production medicine into the area.

We hope that a new veterinarian will assist producers in the area meet their regulatory requirements, preventative medicine needs and assist them when disease outbreaks occur. Many producers complain that they cannot find a veterinarian to carry out regulatory veterinary requirements or other routine veterinary needs.

We expect this new veterinarian to commit at least 50% of full-time-equivalent hours (i.e. 20 hours/week) to food animal medicine. They may not be able to maintain an exclusive food animal practice due to the expectation that a large animal veterinarian provides services to horses.

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).

Saratoga WY and the surrounding area of southern and eastern Carbon County is located in some of the prettiest country in North America. There are great outdoor opportunities, including world class hunting, fishing, golfing, and bathing in natural mineral hot springs. This is attractive to many veterinarians, but also makes it a very expensive area to live.

Dr. John Collamer, a retired food animal veterinarian, who still lives in Saratoga, states that there is a great need for food animal services. He confirmed that no one offers food animal services in the area for most of the year (there is a single small animal exclusive clinic in Saratoga). Based on that discussion and the discussion with producers in the area we believe a veterinarian should offer pregnancy diagnoses and other reproductive services and consultation. Additionally, there is a need for diagnostic services and infectious disease and nutrition/toxicology management and consultation in addition to regulatory services. Dr. Collamer assures us that a food animal practitioner will stay very busy indeed.

Any veterinarian practicing in southern Carbon County will need to be well versed in large scale cow-calf operations, but also must be able to help residents with back yard food animals. They would need to be able to offer biosecurity advice to rodeo and other livestock event staff.

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 state of Wyoming instituted a student loan repayment program to recruit new food animal veterinarians moving into underserved areas in 2008. Carbon County was identified as such an area. We were successful in recruiting a veterinarian into Rawlins (western Carbon County) in 2008. However, the bulk of Carbon County, particularly the south and east, remains greatly underserved. We are confident that using this program we will be able to attract a veterinarian into this area.

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 current food animal veterinary work force is unable to meet the demand in Carbon County Wyoming, and the problem is particularly bad in the southern part of the county. The producers in the area are unable to deal with livestock disease issues; ultimately this may force them out of business. This would not only reduce the nation's supply of beef and lamb, but many of these existing ranches would subsequently be sold and subdivided. This would impact the region, state, and nation as the area is considered a national treasure for its abundance of wildlife and natural beauty. Such development would have a great and irreversible impact on the wildlife and other natural resources of the area.

Although it is a small community, the area does hold a fairly large rodeo, a large bull sale, and other livestock events. The state veterinarian is concerned about animal rights or other groups undermining these events by introducing an infectious disease to

these livestock. A natural accidental introduction of disease is also possible. With no full-time veterinarians in the area, it would be impossible to mange such an outbreak. Additionally, such an outbreak could have human health implications if the agent were zoonotic.

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.

We were unable to locate solicitation information on this program. While we believe the area may qualify for a "service in emergency" agreement we also note that the shortage experienced in southern Carbon County is a long-term problem and must be dealt with using that perspective.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Jim Logan

Title: Wyoming State Veterinarian

Organization: Wyoming Livestock Board

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Telephone Number: (307) 777-7515
(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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