



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
 US Department of Agriculture  
 OMB Information Collection  
 Approval No.: 0524-0046  
 Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

# 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: State of New Mexico: Catron, Socorro, Sierra, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Southwestern portion of State  
(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).

The objective of food animal veterinarians in the southwestern area of New Mexico is to service beef, dairy and sheep operations, and to increase quality and quantity of veterinary care available to producers. This area covers six large counties (28,113 square miles), has a population of 95,943 people and average per capita income of \$18,278. This area has approximately 172,500 cattle and sheep and there are cow/calf operations in every county. Cash receipts for livestock in this area in 2010 were approximately \$198,090,000. There is a Mexican border crossing and a livestock market in this area. This area is significantly underserved; only seven listed food animal veterinarians (FAV) to serve this large geographic area (1FAV/24,000 animals). One county in the area (Luna) has large dairy operations and a feedlot. A Type I Shortage veterinarian would spend 80% of their time conducting herd health management, disease surveillance and regulatory duties. Although one veterinarian in the nominated area received a VMLRP award, this area is still significantly underserved due to the size of the area and number of animals. The previously awarded veterinarian is running a practice and may have opportunities for hiring a second awardee in the area.

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).

In order to fulfill the objectives of a food animal veterinarian in this area, he/she would be involved in herd management, basic health care, and disease surveillance for beef and dairy cattle and small ruminants, as well as performing the regulatory functions of a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, which include issuing certificates for interstate and international livestock movement, Brucellosis testing and vaccination, tuberculosis testing, development of disease management plans, cleaning/disinfection plans and the recognition of signs of foreign animal diseases. Included in the time assessment is the mandatory recordkeeping associated with all of these tasks. Disease surveillance would include testing and monitoring for tuberculosis, Brucellosis, bovine trichomoniasis, bovine viral diarrhea, scrapie, pseudorabies and other livestock diseases of significance, as well as the diseases and other health issues affecting the equine population associated with food animal livestock.

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).

There have been attempts by the multiple State agencies to develop incentives for livestock practitioners. Although state partnerships have been forged, an agreement with Kansas State University to admit qualified NM students from agricultural backgrounds has stalled due to lack of funding. The burden of supplying more livestock practitioners to the area continues to fall on the shoulders of existing practitioners, who find it challenging to attract veterinarians away from the higher salaries and perceived better quality of life that the metropolitan areas provide. Financial incentives are vital in any efforts to attract veterinarian practitioners to these rural 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).

Failure to secure or retain rural veterinarians in southeastern NM can result in risk to industry and reduced ability to detect diseases of livestock significance. New Mexico's livestock industry has a long history steeped in family tradition. Many cattle ranches and dairies are family owned and operated; however, NM is also known for having some of the largest corporate dairies in the nation. The state's economy benefits a great deal from the revenue generated by the livestock industry and many New Mexicans are employed by ranches and dairies. New Mexico is the nation's fifth-largest state and ranks among the top 10 nationally in milk production. Milk is the state's #1 cash commodity and livestock products (cattle, sheep, hogs, milk, wool) make up approximately 70% of the agricultural cash receipts. Food animal veterinarians across the state spend very long hours trying to service a large number of livestock over hundreds of square miles. This puts a strain on the veterinarians and their families and results in a disservice to livestock producers and compromises efforts by regulatory agencies to deal with the animal diseases affecting animal and public health. Proper disease surveillance is at risk because there are not enough veterinarians in the area to service the food animal industry need. The existing veterinary force for this area is doing an excellent job with the resources they have, but they are stretched too thin. More veterinarians are crucial to keep our food animals healthy and ensuring the safety of our food supply.

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

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Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

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