

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).

Cow-calf and dairy operations make up a significant portion of the economy of Lamar County. Securing long-term veterinary care for both populations is important in filling this shortage area. Veterinary services for food animals are currently limited, with just three food animal veterinarians for the 83,297 head of cattle (2007 NASS). Of these three food animal veterinarians, two have stopped or greatly reduced their food animal services due to health concerns. Based on input from both of the mixed animal practices in the area, they used to have as many as 7 veterinarians doing a significant percentage of large animal work. One veterinarian who has been in the area since 1973 once ran a 4-vet practice with 75% food animal (mostly cow-calf). A number of producers and the local sale barn get vet services from as far as 45 miles away because local options are limited. An additional mixed animal vet is expected to augment a veterinary workforce that is shrinking and moving toward retirement.

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).

An awardee in this position would act as a truly mixed animal practitioner, being available for any food-animal veterinary services, spending at least 30% of their time doing so, and perhaps augmenting an existing practice that offers mixed animal service on a haul-in or ambulatory basis. Historically, the area has seen significant work related to yearling and cow-calf operations, for example routine pregnancy determination, vaccination, and diagnostic sample collection. A number of the vets already in the county, as well as neighboring counties and even in adjacent areas of Oklahoma, are still practicing but are over 60 years old. Therefore, the awardee would become an integral part of, and hopefully a permanent member of, the local veterinary community. Examples of duties that would require appropriate state and federal certifications include trichomoniasis testing of bulls, TB testing, and brucellosis testing and vaccination.

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).

One local practice has hosted approximately 15 interns in recent years, and participates in internship and interview programs through Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, Kansas State and even Auburn. Retaining veterinarians who will spend a significant proportion of time long-term in providing food animal services has been a challenge, with a couple of vets staying in the area but ceasing the food animal portion of practice for personal or health reasons.

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).

If veterinary care for the large population of food animals is not maintained in Lamar County in the coming years, producers will either have to travel farther for care or take on more work that is ideally suited to veterinarians, without hands-on vet care and without personal guidance on their operations from a vet. In the long run, animal health and safety, as well as the health of the food supply, suffers without the involvement of qualified veterinarians. In a rural area such as Lamar County Texas, this risk is very real and will be compounded as older veterinarians in established practices retire and have trouble recruiting new associates. Agriculture is an important part of the economy and livelihoods of many in this area of the state, including a wealth of small producers. The community as a whole benefits from the involvement, leadership, and advice of a good mixed animal vet – and this is at risk of being lost in this community beyond what has already occurred.

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

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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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