

Arica Andreatta, Chairman
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner
Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

Las Animas County Board of County Commissioners
c/o Phil Dorenkamp, County Administrator
200 East 1st Street
Trinidad, Colorado 81082

December 10, 2024

Dear Commissioners Lopez, Lopez, and Hass,

We write to request your support and assistance to join Las Animas and Otero Counties as a designated underserved area under USDA NIFA's Veterinary Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP).

USDA estimates Huerfano County holds 16,000 cows and calves in herds ranging from 10 to 1000 head. Horses are kept to work livestock and for pleasure. In addition, small operations raise sheep, goats, and camelids. The county has a sizeable population of household pets.

Other than a small-animal exclusive mobile clinic we have no full-time veterinary services in the county. Disease surveillance is nearly non-existent. Emergency care for serious injuries, regulatory work (TB tests, Brucellosis tests, Trichomonas testing, tests for import/export), and sample collection and submission for reportable diseases requires hauling animals to Pueblo or waiting until a veterinarian can travel to Huerfano County.

A full-service veterinary clinic near Walsenburg with 1-2 veterinarians and 6 support staff provided service for all species for 40 years, demonstrating that this county can support a veterinary practice.

We hope that you will support us in this effort. If you have any questions please reach out to Carl Young, County Administrator, at cyoung@huerfano.us.

Sincerely,

Arica Andreatta, Chairman

Karl Sporleder, Commissioner

Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner

Identical letter sent to Otero County Commissioners
401 Main Street, Suite #201 Walsenburg, CO 81089
Office: 719-738-3000 Ext. 200 Fax: 719-738-3996

Arica Andreatta, Chairman
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner
Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

Otero County Board of County Commissioners
c/o Amy White-Tanabe, County Administrator
13 W 3rd Street, Room 212
La Junta CO 81050

December 10, 2024

Dear Commissioners Oquist, Knabenshue, and Baldwin,

We write to request your support and assistance to join Las Animas and Otero Counties as a designated underserved area under USDA NIFA's Veterinary Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP).

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