

# 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.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: SD113**

#### 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: Custer, Fall River, and Shannon Counties, SD  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: Buffalo Gap, SD  
(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 \_\_\_ Equine \_\_\_\_\_

- 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).

Placement of a large animal veterinarian into this geographic location of South Dakota will be beneficial to the livestock industries of the state as well as local producers. Information and services provided by a veterinarian will improve herd health, reproductive efficiency and nutritional management; all aspects contributing to producer profitability. Availability of a large animal practitioner to properly educate producers concerning biosecurity, disease control, herd health programs, animal welfare and the use of veterinary products will minimize the risk of adverse events occurring that could result in devastating consequences to local operations and/or the livestock industry of South Dakota. Establishing an accredited large animal practitioner in this area will provide an intermediary for regulatory officials and producers who will be able to communicate and endorse state and federal animal health regulations, program diseases, animal welfare, and interstate movement of livestock. This shortage situation will require an 80% time commitment practicing food animal medicine.

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 large animal practitioner should be knowledgeable of and able to provide veterinary services relevant to the animal agriculture systems in the area. This region of South Dakota has livestock operations that include multiple species, most commonly beef cattle and sheep. A successful large animal practitioner will need to develop relationships with producers, outline and develop herd health plans, create treatment protocols, and provide diagnostic and surgical procedures. The practitioner would perform herd work, including but not limited to pregnancy diagnosis, vaccination, fertility testing, and animal processing. The practitioner should be knowledgeable in common agricultural practices used in these production systems. They would conduct disease outbreak investigations and provide guidance in managing and/or limiting the effects of such disease incidents. The veterinarian would conduct on farm visits for routine herd health programs or conditions requiring timely attention. They would be involved in conducting producer education in the areas of animal husbandry, welfare, nutrition, handling, disease prevention, biosecurity, and appropriate use of veterinary products. The veterinarian will maintain his or her federal accreditation allowing them to perform surveillance and diagnostic testing for state and federal program diseases and endorse livestock for interstate shipment.

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 few practices in these counties have posted advertisements on university and professional association job boards, and classified ads in professional publications for extended periods of time with limited success in filling positions. These practices have been recruiting for associates in order to expand their existing practices, provide additional services to the under served areas and most commonly to replace retiring practitioners. An established practitioner from the area who has been attempting to hire for several years reported they could not offer a salary that provided enough compensation for the prospective associate to service their educational loan and living expenses.

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).

Data presented by AVMA on food supply veterinary shortages identified Custer, Fall River, and Shannon counties as having a total population of 115,190 food animals with zero food animal veterinarians in Custer and Shannon counties. NASS data as of January 1, 2010 estimates the total cattle population in these counties as 125,000 with 79,000 being beef cows. The lack of sufficient veterinary influence and services available to producers for such a large population of cattle creates a void. This void becomes filled with misinformation, creates opportunities for disease introduction and perpetuation of existing diseases and leads to substandard management. With the shortfall in availability of professional veterinary medical services, advice, and guidance for food animal producers, a vulnerability to the health and welfare of livestock has and will continue to develop.

These sparsely populated counties rely heavily on animal agriculture to support their local economies. The professional services of a veterinarian can contribute to increased profitability and viability of producers, in turn creating a stimulus to the local economy. Food Animal Veterinary Medical Professionals are an integral component of livestock industries. Without these assets producers, local communities, and the people of South Dakota suffer economically and are subject to increased risk of disease incidents.

I have given this shortage nomination a qualitative ranking of critical because of the reasons and objectives presented.

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:

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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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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