

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: Fairbanks to Delta Junction
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Either Fairbanks or Delta Junction
(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 : __yak, musk-ox, elk, reindeer _____

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 objectives of this position is to support the livestock operations located across a large geographic area in the interior portion of the state, this is the second largest concentration of food animal producers in the Alaska: 42 cattle operations, one dairy farm, 13 hog producers, 29 poultry facilities, 4 reindeer farms, 18 small ruminant operations (dairy goat, goat, sheep), 4 elk and 5 bison producers. This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and emergency response to all hazards that would impact animal health. There are 3 additional farms that plan to set up operation in the area this summer: small dairy farm designed specifically for artisanal cheese production, dairy goat farm and beef operation. There are currently only 2 veterinarians providing service to livestock over this entire area, one practice restricts their service to the immediate area in and around Fairbanks. Due to the large distance between farms veterinary coverage is lacking while expansion of family farms and livestock numbers gradually increase.

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).

This position would provide herd health support to the livestock and poultry producers and 4-H groups in this large area from operations in rural areas around Fairbanks to remote locations southeast to Delta Junction. There are a significant number of small ruminant dairies within this area that provide dairy products to local communities through "cow or goat share operations" that are outside the regulatory framework of the state. There has been an increase in the number of homestead farms contributing meat, poultry, eggs, dairy and vegetable products to local farm markets, service to these homestead farms would be a primary activity. This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and be a point of contact for emergency response to any hazards that would impact animal health. (Example, forest fires and spring flooding are not uncommon in the interior or the state.) Several of the livestock operations use horses to work the herds of elk and cattle. In order to sustain an economically viable practice the practitioner will need to provide equine and small animal services.

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).

Over the last several years veterinarians offering farm animals services has declined. One of these veterinarians provides only emergency services for livestock owners as his practice has focused more on domestic pets. Producers have actively petitioned this office and Cooperative Extension to provide support to the food animal producers, there is limited support that can be offered from this office and Cooperative Extension Service. No active recruiting has been done by this office, veterinary clinics have turned their focus on providing service to domestic pets as time and distance involved in providing services to the livestock producers is not as profitable. Opening a practice in this area would require significant outreach efforts to promote a food animal practice as many producers perform their own limited veterinary work. Outreach would need to focus on the benefits to the producer of comprehensive herd health management plan.

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 risk involved with not filling this position could be significant for the success of the local dairy industry in the area. The Northern Lights Creamery is in need of more local milk production as one dairy farmer has moved their herd to the south-central area supplying milk to another creamery. There are numerous agricultural parcels open in the area and the Division of Agriculture is attempting to attract new livestock producers into the Delta region. There is the potential for 2 new dairies (one bovine, one caprine) to begin operation in 2012.

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.

NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreements at this time.

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

OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013