

# 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: Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Palmer or Wasilla  
(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, bison,  
 captive wildlife facility, University of Alaska  
 Experimental Farm  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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 are to support the livestock operations of the Matanuska-Susitna borough, which covers 25,260 square miles and supports a population of over 82,515. This is the largest concentration of food animal producers (NASS) in the State: 45 cattle operations, 19 hog producers, 49 poultry facilities (not including the multiple number of private back yard poultry flocks (size of 10 to 100 birds), 2 musk-ox farms, 3 reindeer farms, 18 dairy goat, goat, sheep operations, 4 elk and 4 bison producers. 4 of the 5 bovine dairy farms reside in this area; the construction of a private owned creamery (Matanuska Creamery) to support these producers was developed 4 years ago when the state run facility (Matanuska Maid Dairy) was closed down. In addition, a new creamery is being built planning to be operational within the next year. This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and emergency response to any hazards (natural disasters) that would impact livestock operations and animal health. In the past producers in this area have had to respond to both earthquakes and forest fires.

There are currently only 3 veterinarians providing service to this entire area, due to the large distance between farms veterinary coverage is lacking while expansion of farms and livestock numbers increase. The expansion of local farm markets in this area also would require the veterinarian to focus on bio-security and food safety issues.

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 Palmer and Wasilla to remote locations up to Willow and Talkeetna. In addition to the primary location of the cow dairy industry in the state (5 of 7 producers reside in this area, there are a significant number of small ruminant dairies within this area that provide dairy products to local communities through cow or goat share businesses that are outside the regulatory framework of the state.

There has been an increase in the number of homestead farms contributing meat, dairy and vegetable products to local farm markets, service to these homestead farms would be a primary activity. In addition several hog producers have expanded their herds to meet the local demand for pork products mostly through farm gate sales.

Several of the livestock operations use horses to work the herds of elk and cattle so the practitioner would need to provide some equine services. It would be essential for the practice the practitioner to support the food animal practice by offering equine and small animal/pet 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 10 years veterinarians offering farm animals services has drastically been reduced from over 12 to now only 3. Livestock producers as well as the Division of Agriculture 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 as there is only one livestock specialist to serve the entire state. 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 has not been profitable. The veterinarian clinics serving this region have also attempted to recruit for an associate to provide service to livestock producers in the immediate area surrounding the practice in attempt to expand the services offered.

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 dairy industry in the area. The Matanuska Creamery is in need of more local milk production and now that the border is open for import of replacement stock dairy producers are planning for expansion of their herds There are numerous agricultural parcels open in the area and the Division of Agriculture is attempting to attract new dairies into this area as well as the Delta region. There is the potential for one new dairy to begin operation in 2012.

Warming temperatures in the state has increased the introduction of invasive species (insect vectors, parasites) as well as an increase in certain animal and food borne diseases. This area of the state has the largest concentration of people and livestock operations and without support from veterinary practitioners in the field the state and agricultural industry will be ill prepared to identify and diagnose morbidity and mortality events that impact both animal and public health. In addition, without this position the state may not be able to effectively manage emergency response to a hazard that impacts domestic animals and animal health.

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 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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