



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
 US Department of Agriculture  
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## 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: Story County, Iowa  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: 1600 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, IA 50011  
(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: Iowa State University Position Title: Intern/Resident  
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.
- Food Safety
  - Public Health
  - Epidemiology
  - Other: Food Animal Theriogenology, Medicine, Surgery

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 first objective is **to increase veterinary workforce capacity by adequate training of veterinary students in theriogenology**. The interest in food supply veterinary medicine at Iowa State University is higher now than it has been in many years. Approximately 45- 50% of the class of 145 students [including contracted students from (25) Nebraska, (6) South Dakota, up to (5) North Dakota and (10) Connecticut] now select tracks to prepare them for mixed or exclusive food animal practice. This intern/resident position would provide an additional resource to better assure that veterinary students acquire the theriogenology skills necessary to provide the highest quality services to producers. The second objective is **to broaden and advance the theriogenology skills and capabilities of food supply veterinarians currently practicing in underserved areas in Iowa and neighboring states**. This will be achieved through training this intern/resident and having him/her provide phone consultation, continuing education meetings and visits to private practices to further develop practitioner's capabilities in areas such as ultrasound and embryo transfer. This will enhance sustainability of practices by expanding services provided and thereby increase capacity to support additional food animal practitioners within the community and ultimately better assure sustainable production of wholesome and affordable food. (200 words)

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 veterinarian selected for this position would spend 75%-100% of their time focused on learning and teaching advanced theriogenology skills while delivering theriogenology services through the ISU Food Animal and Camelid Hospital, the ISU Embryo Transfer Unit, and the ISU Veterinary Field Services unit which serves the nine (1 dairy, 3 swine, 3 beef, 1 sheep) university farms, a 6000 cow private dairy, and a variety of private producers within a 50 mile radius of Ames. This person may also spend a portion of time pursuing an advanced degree in a specialty relevant to theriogenology such as reproductive physiology and preparing for board certification by the American College of Veterinary Theriogenology. The veterinarian in this position will be extensively involved with clinical instruction of students through theriogenology case management. The person in this position will work with theriogenology faculty to develop and implement hands-on learning modules on theriogenology topics delivered at the college, at regional CE meetings, at private practices, and on client farms. These modules will be focused on increasing the theriogenology skills (ultrasound) and services (embryo transfer) provided by practitioners. Delivery of these modules will be targeted first towards veterinarians in underserved areas in Iowa. (197 words)

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 economic challenges experienced by veterinary teaching hospitals have resulted in elimination of many food animal focused intern and resident positions across the U.S. The limited numbers of remaining positions have been difficult to fill primarily because of the low salary (\$20,000-\$30,000) and high debt load of applicants. The most common applicant is a new or recent graduate. Although Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine produces more food animal veterinarians than any other CVM in the U.S., only 2 people (1 in internal medicine, 1 in theriogenology) are currently in food animal or theriogenology internships or residencies at ISU. (100 words)

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).

Without these funds, this position will likely remain unfilled due to the inability of applicants to meet current debt obligations and the need to not generate additional debt during the 1-3 years where they are acquiring more advanced training in food animal focused theriogenology. Failure to fill this position will have a direct negative impact on the training of upwards of 435 fourth year veterinary students over the next 3 years. Many of these students have limited understanding of food animal theriogenology and the role it plays in global food security. Funding this position will better assure proper training of these individuals and will build the skills and earning capacity of future and current food supply veterinarians. Theriogenology skills are critical for food animal practitioners and failure of appropriate training and continuing education in theriogenology will have measurable negative impacts on the sustainability of food animal practitioners in rural practices and thereby compromise the production of an abundant, affordable, safe and wholesome food supply given the significant role of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota in the nation’s animal agriculture sector. (182 words)

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.

No. We encourage all veterinarians to register for NAHERC and become members of state veterinary emergency response team.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: David D. Schmitt, DVM  
 Title: State Veterinarian - Iowa  
 Organization: Iowa Department of Agriculture  
 Email: David D. Schmitt, DVM  
 Telephone Number: 515-281-8601  
(Area code required)

**David D. Schmitt, DVM**

**February 27, 2012**

Type Name

Date

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.