VMLRP Shortage ID Code: ND122

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

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: North Dakota State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: NDSU Dept 7691, PO Box 6050, 1523 Centennial Blvd., Fargo, ND 58108-6050
(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: NDSU-VDL _____ Position Title:_Diagnostician_____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.
- ☐ Food Safety
- ☒ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☒ Other: Pathology, Microbiology, Toxicology

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).

There is a shortage of veterinary diagnosticians (pathologists, microbiologists, toxicologists) to serve the practitioners and producers of North Dakota. This is due to competition with high salaries in industry and academia. The objectives of this individual would be accurate and timely reporting of animal disease information to the North Dakota community.

North Dakota currently has two veterinary pathologist serving the state, and one veterinary toxicologist. Another pathologist is needed to fully staff the laboratory. If the laboratory is unable to maintain the workload needed by North Dakota veterinarians, animal owners and producers, then those clients will go out of state for the expertise. In addition, increased workload on an incompletely staffed laboratory can lead to loss of current personnel.

"Cattle outnumber people in North Dakota almost three to one. The beef cattle industry contributes about $600 million annually to the state's annual agricultural income. The total number of hogs in the state is about 180,000, while sheep and lambs total about 88,000. Dairy production is about 420 million gallons of milk annually. North Dakota raises about 2 million turkeys annually (North Dakota Department of Agriculture 2010 Agriculture Brochure)". The NDSU-VDL provides animal disease diagnostic services to the individuals engaged in animal agriculture around the state.

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 activities of this individual would be directly related to their area of specialization. A pathologist would report on any animal health related issue in the area. This might involve necropsies, biopsies or compilation of data from a variety of disciplines leading to result reporting. A toxicologist would work with feed-related problems, nutritional deficiencies or excesses and toxin detection, and a microbiologist could be involved in culture, virus isolation, serology or molecular diagnostics. All of these specialties are basic necessities in a modern veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

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).

Recruitment of diagnosticians into this area is very difficult. The remuneration is not as good as can be received in other areas of the country, in industry and in academia. In addition, it can be a challenge to recruit individuals into the sometimes harsh weather that goes along with living in the upper Midwest.

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 adequate diagnostic help it is not possible to handle the number of cases generated by the animal health industry in this area. Timely diagnosis becomes a problem, as does the ability to perform sophisticated testing in house. When these sorts of services are shipped out of state, more time in reporting is involved as well as additional costs to the producer. Less time and expertise is available for client education through talks to commodity groups, written animal health material, and phone consultation. Diagnosticians are not available to participate in statewide animal health programs that require their expertise. Finally, diagnosticians are not available to participate in regional and national animal health surveillance programs such as the National Animal Health Network. These programs are critical to the animal health infrastructure of the country.

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:

Name: Susan Keller, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Email: skeller@nd.gov

Telephone Number: 701-328-2655
(Area code required)

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