

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: McKenzie County, North Dakota
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Watford City, North Dakota
(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: _____ 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).

This is one of the most critical areas in North Dakota in need of a veterinarian. Having a food animal veterinarian in this community is essential, as McKenzie County has over 62,000 beef cattle (primarily cow-calf). There is currently only one veterinarian in the county, who is over 75 years old, and he has been unsuccessfully trying to sell his practice for several years. The practice area has a radius exceeding 60 miles, in some directions.

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 primary need is for beef cattle services, including reproductive services such as breeding soundness, ultrasound and manual pregnancy diagnosis, calving services, herd health consulting, disease diagnostics and emergency services. Included in the beef cattle clientele are many purebred breeders providing breeding stock to the state and region. Watford City is a community of about 2500 people, and has experienced some recent growth due to growth in the energy sector in that area of the state. This provides the opportunity for some companion animal work to supplement the practice income during less busy times of the year. Additionally, many of the ranches in the area utilize working horses, and thus equine work will be a small, but important part of the practice.

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 McKenzie County area is serviced by a veterinarian who is over 75 years old. He has been trying to secure an associate or partner for many years. He has been trying to sell the practice and retire for the past ten years. He is at a point where he will have to shut the doors because he can no longer perform the duties expected and there is no one to replace him. The community development board has been trying to recruit a veterinarian for the past 10 years. They have the ability to offer financing options for an interested veterinarian.

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 large number of beef cattle in this practice area with limited access to a veterinarian creates the risk for a disease outbreak to go undetected and spread not only to domestic animals, but also to the vibrant wildlife population in this area, including whitetail and mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk, and moose. Additionally, access to other veterinarians is limited due to travel barriers such as rivers and badlands. This means a trip of 70-120 miles to reach a veterinarian. Most rural residents are 30-50 minutes from Watford City already, and the additional travel seriously impacts the quality of care. Furthermore, the area is on the North Dakota/Montana border, and it is critical to have a veterinarian available to inspect livestock, perform testing, and issue certificates of veterinary inspection.

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

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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.

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