

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to 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 shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: University of Alaska – Fairbanks (UAF)
Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): University of Alaska Fairbanks PO Box 757500; Fairbanks, AK 99775

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority High Priority Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

Type I Shortage: Private Practice Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one) May cover
Beef Cattle Dairy Cattle Swine Poultry Small Ruminant Other

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one) May cover
Beef Cattle Dairy Cattle Swine Poultry Small Ruminant Other

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week) Employer: University of Alaska-Fairbanks Position Title: Large Animal Residency - One Health Focus

Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas: Food Safety Public Health Epidemiology Other: Teaching veterinary medical science courses including food animal production and food safety to students and providing outreach to producers, livestock associations and local veterinary

practitioners. Assist in the development continuing education coursed for veterinary practitioners.

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling 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 Arctic environment provides unique challenges to producing feed and raising livestock and many livestock operations are located in remote locations across the 586,400 square miles of Alaska. The objectives of this position will be: to teach university students, to provide outreach education to Cooperative Extension Agents and practicing veterinarians, to provide outreach information to food animal producers, agricultural industry professionals and individuals involved with growing and processing animal products. Educational programs will focus on animal health, infectious and contagious disease, environmental health, veterinary public health, food safety, animal production and sustainability. A portion of the responsibilities of this position may be involved with veterinary research projects that relate to the unique challenges and climatic issues in Alaska.

The relative isolation of the state and many of the small communities put an emphasis and need on local production of agricultural products and livestock. Most of the development is in the form of small family farms with farm gate sale of animals and animal products. Possible research focus on "One Health" issues related to interaction of livestock and wildlife and local processing and distribution of food products incorporating the impact of climate change in this Arctic environment. 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 position will help prepared veterinary professionals (students, practitioners, animal health professionals) and producers to identify and diagnose morbidity and mortality events that impact animal and public health.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This position will be responsible to provide veterinary science education that will incorporate animal diagnostics, on-farm field investigations, applied research, curriculum development. Primary focus on classroom instruction for students enrolled in veterinary science and animal technician curriculum. There will be significant outreach education to serve Alaska's livestock producers and rural food animal veterinarians emphasizing a "One Health" perspective to improve animal health (wildlife and livestock), bio-security, husbandry, food safety, farm profitability and product quality.

A portion of the time will be devoted to the development of curriculum and instruction of classes at University of Alaska as well as the extension campuses (Nome, Matanuska-Susitna, Aleutian and Southeast) with an emphasis on applied veterinary research. The outreach work associated with this position may involve travel to different regions of the state; from Nome (reindeer herds) and the Aleutian Islands to south-central (Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula) and the southeast (Juneau, Ketchikan, Haines). The veterinarian in this position will provide critical support for Cooperative Extension Agents and practicing food animal veterinarians in rural areas throughout the state via site visits and electronic and telephonic communications (webinars, video conferencing).

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).

UAF is the lead in Arctic studies and related animal health research. The University of Alaska has developed the Veterinary Science Department/Program and has an accredited "2 + 2 program" with the College of Veterinary Medical and Biomedical Science, Colorado State University leading to a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine for participating students. With a full contingent of veterinary researchers on staff (veterinary toxicologist, veterinary pathologist, veterinary virologist, extension veterinarian and veterinary infectious disease specialist) is now ready to focus on applied veterinary research in the unique Arctic environment and take on candidates to be responsible for course development that would include student education, support for outreach education and consultation to Cooperative Extension Agents, producers and livestock veterinarians. This position would be involved in the development and operation of this program.

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 will be limiting the outreach support for the agricultural community dispersed across the diverse and vast expanse of the state from the Arctic regions of Nome, interior with its temperature extremes (80 to 90 F in the summer to -40 in the mid winter), to the coastal regions of Aleutian Islands and the Southeast panhandle. This position will assist in the education of students and animal health professionals, as well as, continued support of agriculture in Alaska without which will have limited development and growth. As an example, the reindeer industry in the northwest region of the state is attempting to develop markets (interstate and international) outside the local communities; there is need for support through the development of herd health/management plans, nutritional research and practical efforts for slaughter and processing of reindeer to provide a commercial product. The industry is represented by

the Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association, and major management problems relate to trying to manage the predation of the reindeer herds by the Western Arctic caribou herd, as well as, adjust to ecosystem changes that are impacting the free ranging reindeer herds.

This position will have the unique opportunity to apply "One Health" concepts in a developing livestock industry in the state that has a diverse range of the agricultural operations and increasing growth of local farm markets and farm gate sales of livestock and livestock products. The inevitable interaction with the large wildlife populations poses a great need for bio-security, herd health management, food safety, awareness of zoonotic disease, as well as, the need to develop local emergency preparedness and response since support from the main urban centers may take several days to respond.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- ◆ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

- ◆ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Robert F. Gerlach, VMD

Title: Alaska State Veterinarian

Organization: Dept. of Environmental Conservation

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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, OIGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016