



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
AK102

Veterinary Shortage Id Code: AK102

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

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: Kenai Peninsula
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Soldotna or Kenai
(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 : Yaks, elk

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 will be to develop herd health management to an expanding number of beef cattle and small ruminant operations on the Kenai Peninsula (area ranging from Portage, 40 miles south of Anchorage to Homer, some 250 miles south). The issue with most areas of Alaska is the large distances between livestock operations; average farm size is 1,300 acres. The Kenai Peninsula has over 30 cattle, 9 hog and 53 small ruminant farms. The poultry operations are mostly small backyard flocks ranging in size from 10 to 500 birds. Due to the distribution of the farms this position would need to support a practice with small animal work to sustain a economically successful business.

There have been past efforts by the cattle operators to develop a local slaughter plant, the state is encouraging the producers to consider a mobile slaughter plant to serve the Kenai Peninsula. If this endeavor is successful there is the possibility that this veterinary position could perform contract work for FSIS to cover the seasonal operation of the plant, thus providing support for the producers and saving USDA FSIS the expense of staffing this position.

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).

Activities will be directed to support the larger established beef and hog operations and the one wildlife conservation center (housing a herd of elk, reindeer, bison) on the Kenai Peninsula. Secondary activities will be to support the numerous back yard or homestead farming operations. Since several cattle operations use horses to manage their herds this practitioner would also need to be able to provide equine services.

Most of these premises produce meat and poultry products for small communities (10 to 20 households) off the main thoroughfares and 50 to 70 miles from the nearest town.

Future work may be to support operation of a seasonal mobile slaughter plant by contract with USDA-FSIS as support to this area would constitute a major financial and personnel issue to assign a USDA inspector.

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).

There are only 2 veterinary clinics serving this area. Both practices are actively recruiting for an associate that they hope to hire in the next two years.

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 primary risk to not retaining this position involves the lack of support to local communities to produce safe and sustainable local food production.

Due to climatic changes the state has noted an increase in invasive species (insect vectors, parasites) as well as an increase in certain animal and food borne diseases. 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 can have impact on animal and public 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. [LEAVE BLANK – NOT FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2010]

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Robert F. Gerlach, VMD

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Dept of Environmental Conservation

Email: Bob.gerlach@alaska.gov

Telephone Number: (907) 375-8214

(Area code required)

Robert F. Gerlach, VMD

Type Name

3/8/2010

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