



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

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Veterinary Shortage Id Code: AK103

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: Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Kodiak, Alaska
(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 : Bison, elk, yak, reindeer

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).

Provide service to livestock producers (beef, bison, elk, yak, goat, poultry) on Kodiak Island and several of the Aleutian Islands. There are half dozen grazing operations on the islands the largest is on Umnak Island (6,000 beef and 5,000 reindeer). According to NASS there are 11 farms with over 11,500 beef cattle grazing on the largest open grass land in the state. This position could provide support as a consultant and advisor to the management of the remote island herds. There are numerous homestead farms, back yard operations providing food for local families. This position would provide service to these small farms and backyard poultry operations and consult to the larger livestock operations on Kodiak Island. Many of these operations use horses to manage the beef herds so equine experience would be needed. There is a slaughter house on the island. Several of the islands from Sand Point to Sitkinak have beef operations. The recent (2009) development of a mobile slaughter plant (modular plant transported on a barge to the island herds) based on Kodiak Island allows cattle owners on site slaughter and processing and the ability to market fresh and retort products. First slaughter fall 2009 on Sitkinak Island. Staffing this facility by FSIS is expensive to support and burdensome due to the remote location, smaller number of animals processed (per day and per year) and seasonal operation. I would envision this position as having the opportunity to contract for USDA FSIS to provide inspection service for the seasonal operation of this plant.

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).

Clinical operation of a mixed animal practice, 70% domestic pets and 30% food producing animals, to include contract support for slaughter inspection for seasonal operation of the mobile slaughter unit. Routine health care operations at a clinic, a mobile large animal practice to possibly extend to island herds in the immediate vicinity of Kodiak Island. Herd health consultation to more remote island herds (Umnak, Chirikof). This position would interact with University of Fairbanks Cooperative Extension officers for forage analysis and nutritional management.

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).

No previous efforts to recruit veterinary services. Most producers use long distance (phone, radio) consultation to practitioners to provide herd management support. Island did support 3 separate practices (two full time and one part time) the provided food animal services at one time. Two practitioners left the island, one to pursue a surgical residency program, the other (part time practitioner) due to spouse being reassigned to a new duty station. The remaining clinic specializes in caring for domestic pet s

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).

Risk for not securing a food animal practitioner: Food security is an issue. Without local product of food, these island communities must rely on product being shipped in for sale and distribution. Without veterinary support producers will be limited in their ability to efficiently raise livestock and more producers will likely cease production. Herd health management consultation could increase production and profit for producers and so expand the market for the free range organic beef raised on the remote island grasslands. This position has great potential to be an asset for the USDA FSIS in supporting the seasonal operation of the mobile slaughter plant.

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
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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.