

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: Delta Junction to Fairbanks, Alaska
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
 (or Location of Position if Type III): Either Fairbanks or Delta Junction
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

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| <p>Must cover(check at least one)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p>May cover</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>elk, muskox, bison, reindeer</u></p> |
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For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

Food Safety

Public Health

Epidemiology

Other: _____

(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 above, 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.

 %

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 1500 characters).

The objectives of this position will be to develop herd health management to an expanding number of beef cattle and small ruminant operations, as well as, 4-H groups located in the interior portion of the state. This is the second largest concentration of food animal operations in the Alaska (NASS): 45 cattle operations, one dairy farm, 13 hog producers, 29 poultry facilities, 4 reindeer farms, 18 small ruminant operations (dairy goat, goat, and sheep), 4 elk and 7 bison producers. In addition, there are several game ranches. This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and emergency response to all hazards that would impact animal health. There are several farms that have begun to set up in the area this last year: small dairy farm designed specifically for artisan cheese production, dairy goat farm, several reindeer facilities and beef herds. The Stevens Village tribe has expanded their bison herd and is planning to start a reindeer herd.

There are currently only 2 veterinarians providing service to livestock over this entire area, one practice limits their service to the immediate area in and around Fairbanks, the other clinic is primarily a small animal practice but provides some emergency support to this area as needed. Due to the large distance between farms veterinary coverage is lacking while expansion of family farms and livestock numbers gradually increase.

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 1500 characters or less).

This position would provide herd health support to the livestock and poultry producers and 4-H groups in this large area from operations in rural areas around Fairbanks to remote locations southeast to Delta Junction. There are a number of backyard dairy cow and small ruminant dairies within this area that provide dairy products to local communities through "cow or goat share operations" that are outside the regulatory framework of the state. There are a half dozen small commercial poultry operations (flocks of 400 to 1,000 birds, combination of layer, broilers) operating in this area.

There has been an increase in the number of homestead farms contributing meat, poultry, eggs, dairy and vegetable products to local farm markets, service to these homestead farms would be a primary activity. This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and be a point of contact for emergency response to any hazards that would impact animal health. (Example, forest fires and spring flooding are not uncommon in the interior or the state.) Several of the livestock operations use horses to work the herds of elk and cattle. In order to sustain an economically viable practice the practitioner will need to provide equine and small animal services.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

Veterinarians offering farm animals services have declined through this area and farmers have petitioned this office to provide support to the food animal producers. The University of Fairbanks has developed a 2 +2 Veterinary Program with Colorado State and has hired a livestock extension veterinarian that will be of support for a practitioner in this area. No active recruiting has been done by this office other than nominating the position through this program. Opening a practice in this area would require significant outreach to both producers and 4-H participants to promote a food animal practice with focus on herd health, food safety and Biosecurity.

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 2000 characters or less).

The risk involved with not filling this position could be significant as the continued success of the local dairy industry and beef operations in the area. The Northern Lights Creamery is in need of more local milk production as one dairy farmer has closed their operation. There are two producers that have plans to set up dairy operations, one goat dairy and the other dairy cattle. The dairy cattle operator is setting up a facility in Delta Junction and plans on producing grade A milk and cheese products. In addition, with the development of local farm markets, increased farm gate sales of livestock, custom slaughter and processing without the support of a food animal veterinarian there could be a greater public health risk for food borne and zoonotic disease outbreaks, as well as spread of domestic animal diseases to wild life populations grazing in the area. There are numerous agricultural parcels open in the area and the Division of Agriculture is attempting to attract new livestock producers into the Delta region.

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

Title: Alaska State Veterinarian

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