

# 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](http://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: Jones county including contiguous counties (Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Linn)  
(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): Anamosa, 52205  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical 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:

**Must cover**(check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: Camelids

#### 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.

**50** %

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 for a veterinarian would be to spend at least 50% of their time providing food animal veterinary services in this 7 county area, primarily in the Iowa Agricultural Statistics District X. The 2016 USDA NASS livestock census estimates for these 7 counties exceeded 1,631,489 animals and is composed of all major livestock species. Livestock are dispersed among an estimated 3,847 known registered premises. Approximately 55 mixed animal practitioners are serving in this area but this number is not reflective of the actual number of practitioners who are able to regularly provide veterinary services to production animals. Many of the veterinarians in this area are advanced in age and some practitioners have encountered serious health problems that have eliminated or greatly reduced their ability to provide veterinary services to large animals. Supporting a food animal veterinarian in this area will provide critical production animal veterinary services that are currently lacking, provide necessary regulatory services to producers and enhance the area's entire animal agriculture economy. This underserved area also supports 8 major livestock market that requires veterinary services. VMLRP support will facilitate a recent graduate becoming financially sustainable in rural practice and retain them in this area. (1,340 characters)

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).

The activities of the veterinarian would include the use of skills and knowledge acquired from veterinary college and learned from mentors. They would apply this skill set to diagnose, treat, perform surgical and obstetrical procedures, herd and individual animal disease management, necropsies, prescribe appropriate drugs, conduct follow-ups and be available and responsive for emergency service. This would also include farm visits for herd health programs and state and federal disease surveillance testing programs upon request. Veterinary practice services could also include work at auction markets and exhibitions (county fair or local district livestock shows). The veterinarian shall be able to manage day-to-day business activities and work responsibly with office personnel. To become integrated into the community, it is essential the veterinarian become involved in a local service organization, local governmental organizations or local board of health leadership. The veterinarian should be willing to work with local 4-H and/or FFA youth sharing information about animal care, nutrition, animal health, biosecurity practices, public health, and promotion of the veterinary profession. The veterinarian should become involved with organized veterinary medical associations, be active in obtaining veterinary continuing education, become a member of the state veterinary emergency response team, and maintain a connection with veterinary college. (1,469 characters)

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).

Nine food animal veterinary practices, since 2014, have actively sought an additional veterinarian to complement their growing veterinary practices through advertising in the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association newsletter, at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and elsewhere. In 2015, two young veterinarians applied for VMLRP in this shortage area. The veterinary practices within this area continue to seek preceptor veterinary students with hopes of attracting a new veterinary graduate to meet their client's service and food animal patient needs. Due to the high student loan payments, it is difficult to attract and retain veterinarians aspiring to be established permanently in a rural setting. (725 characters)

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).

Sufficient veterinary involvement in food animal production systems provides critical steps in advancing animal and public health through disease prevention and treatment, adequate pre-harvest food practices, including US FDA Veterinary Feed Directive requirements, and surveillance, recognition, and reporting of disease outbreaks. The proposed shortage area covers approximately 4,389 sq. miles with a livestock population of approximately 1,631,489 livestock (~678,500 beef and dairy). Within this area, there are only 55 licensed food animal veterinarians with a veterinarian/animal ratio of one veterinarian per 29,664 livestock animals. This county and its contiguous counties have an expanding livestock industry in an area that already has a high density of food animals, making it critical to have adequate veterinary services for disease management and profitable production. There are 8,761 farms in this shortage area and approximately 3,847 farms have livestock, plus there are numerous sheep and goat producers, 329 dairy farms and a growing number of horse owners. Food animal veterinarians are regarded by rural communities as knowledgeable professionals who are capable of early detection and reporting of diseases potentially causing negative impacts to livestock, public health and/or agricultural trade. Failure to secure and retain adequate veterinary infrastructure in an underserved area contributes to an unacceptable increase in the risk of timely detection of diseases of severe economic impact, increases livestock producer costs, loss of timely care for livestock that are diseased or require emergency procedures, increases in livestock mortalities and loss of a community professional with a knowledge base of animal health, public health, animal care and welfare, and livestock industries. (1,825 characters)

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: David Schmitt, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian - Iowa

Organization: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.