

# 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: North Dakota counties including Stark, Billings, southern Dunn, northeastern Slope, and Northern Hettinger  
(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): Dickinson, North Dakota  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

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)

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

**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)

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

**May cover**

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

**Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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 most recent data available indicates that there are >200,000 cattle, 5700 horses, 5000 sheep/goats, and 3000 swine in this practice area. Large animal veterinary support is desperately needed. While the veterinarians in the area may seem numerically adequate this is deceiving when considering the veterinarians actually engaged in production animal medicine. Fifteen years ago Dickinson, ND had 4 veterinary clinics all engaged in the practice of large animal medicine. Today there are 2 clinics and only 1 engages in large/production animal medicine. This becomes especially critical in emergency situations such as needs for C-sections, dystocias, and ill or injured livestock. Additionally, there are no veterinarians located in Billings, Slope, or Hettinger Counties.

The veterinary shortage is taxing available resources for preventive and herd health medicine to the limit. Routine medicine and surgery appointments must often be delayed due to time constraints on available resources. Additional large animal veterinary support must be both obtained and retained to ensure the health and productivity of the livestock, the ranching economy of the area, and national food safety and security. Vigilance in rapid detection of foreign animal disease or agricultural bio-terrorism directly impacts our national security and economy.

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).

The veterinarian in this shortage area would integral be in producer education, herd health, and preventive medicine. The veterinarian would work with producers to create protocols improving the health and productivity of their livestock. The veterinarian would be a readily available source of advice and information regarding such topics as vaccine, medication, nutrition, parasite control, and treatment.

The veterinarian would be involved in all aspects of production medicine and surgery. This would involve routine care of ill or injured animals in a timely fashion, as well as herd health and preventive medicine activities such as reproduction medicine (pregnancy assessment, fertility evaluation, and artificial insemination), testing for the presence of disease, vaccinating, castrating, dehorning, and deworming.

Emergency services provided would include, but not be limited to, C-sections and other reproductive emergencies, colic, bloat, critical/acute conditions, and trauma.

The veterinarian would also contribute to the community as a whole being a positive influence on the social and economic development of the area.

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).

Recruiting veterinarians to the shortage area has been difficult. The impact of the local oil development has led to a high cost of living. A housing shortage coupled with a high cost of rent for available housing causes difficulty securing new veterinarians. Some potential candidates have expressed concern with the distance from a major metropolitan area as well as the extreme weather conditions. An initially unrealized hurdle to potential veterinarians to this area is "range cattle medicine and surgery" – a concept unfamiliar to many potential veterinary applicants. A new associate was retained in 2013, but the need has since grown so that an additional veterinarian is now necessary to meet the demand for service.

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 risks of not retaining sufficient large animal veterinary support in the agricultural community are many and far reaching. The ranching community depends on competent and timely veterinary support. Lack of sufficient veterinary involvement in herd health/preventive medicine protocols and practices potentially leads to productivity decreases both in death losses and unhealthy or unthrifty livestock.

Lack of veterinary support potentially increases inhumane handling and treatment of animals as ranchers turn to other options for veterinary care. Unlicensed, untrained/insufficiently trained lay persons providing illegal veterinary services is increasing in this area and has already led to the death and needless suffering of livestock. Adequate veterinary support is essential to help prevent drug residues and unhealthy animals from entering our food supply.

The threat to national security due to lack of sufficient large animal veterinary support in this area is real. Additional veterinarians are needed to help provide for early detection of reportable and/or foreign animal diseases. Agricultural bioterrorism is always a concern and early detection in the field falls on the veterinary community. Lack of additional large animal veterinary support to the area threatens the health and well-being of the animals, the local economy, and ultimately our national economy and security.

(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.

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**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: Susan J. Keller, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: North Dakota State Board of Animal Health  
North Dakota Department of Agriculture

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(Area code required)

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

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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