

# 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  
(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): NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Fargo, North Dakota  
(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 III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

**For Type I or II Private Practice:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Must cover</b> (check at least one)  | <b>May cover</b>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle    | <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swine          | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry        | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |

**For Type III Public Practice:**

Employer: North Dakota State University Position Title: Veterinary Microbiologist

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Veterinary Microbiology

(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).

There is currently one board certified veterinary microbiologist in the state of North Dakota. By placing this individual in the veterinary diagnostic laboratory at NDSU, this specialist is able to serve practitioners and their communities all over the state of North Dakota regardless of their population base. This position is located in Fargo due to the fact that the laboratory is associated with NDSU. The lab covers a practice area of over 100,000 mi<sup>2</sup>, which includes all of ND and western MN, with millions of head of livestock in very rural settings.

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 veterinary microbiologist at NDSU supervises the VDL serology, virology and bacteriology sections, therefore is a resource statewide for all of these areas of diagnostic testing. This individual is responsible for maintenance of these areas as well as new test development, and serves as a veterinary microbiology consultation resource for practitioners and animal owners/producers all over the state of North Dakota. A microbiologist is also a key resource for the state veterinarian and public health officials in their efforts to rapidly identify and respond to highly contagious diseases impacting both animal health and human health.

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).

Until recently, NDSU and North Dakota did not have the services of a board certified veterinary microbiologist. Through suggestions made during our last accreditation audit, it was strongly suggested that we aggressively recruit such an individual. We were successful and now feel excited to offer this expertise to the entire state.

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 laboratory has recently hired a young, enthusiastic, highly intelligent veterinarian that can do great things for the VDL and for North Dakota. This individual presents an area of specialty the VDL has not been able to offer in recent years, and in the short time on staff, has made great improvements in what the lab is able to offer practitioners in ND and western MN. Retaining this microbiologist is critical to the continued success of the laboratory and its ability to help protect food safety in the region. Furthermore, failure to retain a microbiologist will threaten the ability of the lab to maintain accreditation, which could in turn, mean a loss of service to veterinarians and the livestock industries of the 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: Susan J. Keller, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

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

Email: skeller@nd.gov

Telephone Number: 701-328-2655  
(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.