

# 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: Adams County  
(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): Hettinger, ND  
(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:

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

### 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).

Adams County currently has one veterinary clinic that serves a very large radius, with outreach and assistance to surrounding counties, including most of Hettinger County, large portions of Grant, Bowman, and Slope Counties, and smaller portions of Stark and Sioux Counties. The service area includes approximately 1/8 of the state of North Dakota, and a similar sized area in northwestern South Dakota. The portion of the practice area within North Dakota includes well over 100,000 head of cattle and nearly 10,000 head of sheep.

There is a need to employ another veterinarian in this area to assist in providing service to such an expansive community of large animal producers. This rural area requires an extensive amount of time to travel to each individual producer, thus creating an unmet need for available veterinarians. Routine medicine and surgery appointments must often be delayed due to time constraints on available resources. The veterinary shortage is taxing available resources for preventive and herd health medicine to the limit. 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 1500 characters or less).

A veterinarian in this position will be required to perform ambulatory farm services as well as emergency and weekend services for all species. This area is made up of a unique array of beef cattle, dairy, equine, and small ruminant operations; and the clinic also provides small animal primary care and local referral for all species. There is an opportunity for some specialization within these areas as well. A veterinarian will need to be comfortable in routine food animal procedures and either have experience or the will to expand their knowledge in areas such as feedlot medicine and sheep production. The veterinarian will need to be active within all of the surrounding communities, providing outreach, volunteer, and instructive services for youth and public organizations, such as 4H and other groups that promote livestock production and health careers.

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).

The sole veterinary clinic in the area regularly seeks out and provides training for veterinary students and routinely calls for applications from recent graduates. Word-of-mouth advertising is also commonly used for open positions. Competitive salary and extensive benefits (health insurance, CE stipend, work vehicle, clinic discounts, community organization memberships) are provided to employees of this practice to improve retention.

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).

A large risk of leaving animal health needs unmet in this area of the state lies with disease traceability. Feedlots and local livestock sales move an extraordinary number of cattle interstate as well as internationally. Due to the proximity to both South Dakota and Montana, this area has a particular need for veterinarians to inspect animals for health, test for diseases, and identify them prior to interstate shipment. In many cases, these clients must wait for veterinary service to transport their animals, leading to delays, or they choose not to follow correct guidelines due to time constraints. With the new VFD guidelines, the number of farm visits in this area is also expected to rise dramatically to ensure veterinary-client-patient-relationships exist. Emergency care is often given on a first-come, first-serve basis; and with the large area covered by this clinic, clients are often forced to haul their animals in for individual attention. As mentioned above, it is imperative that an adequate ratio of veterinarians to producers exists in order to ensure that veterinarians are available to rapidly identify and respond to disease outbreaks, whether endemic or foreign, to minimize the impacts.

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: ND Dept. of Agriculture/State Board of Animal Health

Email: skeller@nd.gov

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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.