

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: An area consisting of a 40 mile radius centered at Watertown, SD to include portions of Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, and Hamlin Counties in SD.
(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): Watertown, SD 57201
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

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: Captive Cervidae, Equine, & Bison

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 primary goal of placing a veterinarian in this position is to provide the specialized veterinary medical services desired by modern dairies.

The objectives for a veterinarian in this position would be:

1. Educate producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals, and animal husbandry.
2. Be knowledgeable in the area of dairy herd reproduction.
3. Relate herd health programs and efforts with current dairy herd management practices.
4. Maintain a Category II veterinary accreditation.
5. Be knowledgeable of state reportable and foreign animal diseases.
6. Serve as a local resource for information concerning food animal medicine and related public health issues.
7. Devote 80% of a FTE (32hrs/week) to food animal medicine with a minimum 16 hrs/week spent working in the area of dairy practice.

Over the last several years political leaders in the State have been promoting South Dakota as a place for dairymen to relocate or establish new dairies. In order for the dairy industry to thrive in SD it will be essential to establish the availability of veterinarians specialized in the area of dairy health and management.

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 specialized dairy practitioner should be knowledgeable of and able to provide veterinary services relevant to the demands of the industry. A successful dairy practitioner will need to develop relationships with area producers. They would provide consulting services that outline and develop herd health plans to include but not be limited to creating treatment protocols, vaccination programs, heifer development programs, breeding programs, and biosecurity protocols. The practitioner would perform herd work, including but not limited to reproduction examinations, vaccination, herd health checks, obstetrics, and emergency services. They would provide diagnostic and surgical procedures. They would conduct disease outbreak investigations and provide guidance in managing and/or limiting the effects of such disease incidents. They would be involved in producer education in the areas of animal husbandry, welfare, nutrition, handling, disease prevention, biosecurity and appropriate use of veterinary products. The veterinarian will maintain his or her federal accreditation allowing them to perform surveillance and diagnostic testing for state and federal program diseases and endorse certificates for interstate shipment.

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).

Several veterinary practices servicing this area have been attempting to hire or retain a practitioner that would expand their practice to include dairy herd medicine. One practice has been advertising and pursuing an associate through the use of a professional recruitment service for the past three years. Recent graduates have a mean debt of \$151,672 with starting salaries for mixed or food animal practitioners at \$61- 65,700 (AVMA graduating senior survey data – 2012). The VMLRP provides an additional incentive to retain or attract a recent graduate in an existing practice or allow a recent graduate to establish a new practice.

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).

2013 USDA/NASS Data shows an estimated population of 29,900 dairy cows in the counties specified above. As the dairy industry grows in these counties so too will the need to have a specialized dairy practitioner established here. The lack of sufficient veterinary influence and services available to producers for this growing dairy industry in these counties creates a void. This void becomes filled with misinformation, leading to substandard management that creates opportunities for disease introduction and perpetuation of existing diseases. With the absence of professional veterinary medical services, advice, and guidance for dairy producers, a vulnerability to the health and welfare of livestock has and will continue to develop.

The potential for adverse effects on public health and the local economy would exist. Misguided antibiotic therapies resulting in potential meat and milk residues could adversely affect public health and in turn public perception of the dairy industry and its products. Past events in which agricultural industries and/or their products have been perceived to be harmful to the public, either justified or not, have resulted in adverse market conditions on a national level. If the markets decline or crash, local economies relying on those industries as well as the national economy will be weakened.

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: Dustin Oedekoven, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian and Executive Secretary

Organization: South Dakota Animal Industry Board

Email: Dustin.oedekoven@state.sd.us

Telephone Number: 605-773-3321
(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 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.