

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 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: Fayette county including contiguous counties (Allamakee, Bremer, Buchanan, Chicksaw, Clayton, Delaware, Winneshiek) (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): (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [ ] Moderate Priority [ ] High Priority [x] 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: \_\_\_\_\_

[x] 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)

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

May cover

- [ ] Beef Cattle [ ] Dairy Cattle [ ] Swine [x] Poultry [ ] Small Ruminant [x] Other: \_\_\_ Camelids \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] 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 objectives for a veterinarian would be to spend at least 30% of their time providing food animal veterinary services in this 8 county area, primarily in the Iowa Agricultural Statistics District 3. The livestock census estimates as of January 1, 2012, for these 8 counties exceeded 2,300,000 animals and is composed of all major livestock species, especially swine and dairy herds. Livestock are dispersed among an estimated 7,366 livestock premises, including 741 dairies. Seventy six goat dairies of the approximately 208 goat dairies and 24,000 dairy goats in Iowa are in this area. A previous survey by this office indicated that approximately 53 practitioners in 25 practices offer veterinary services related to food animals. Dependable food animal veterinary expertise is critical to sustain production and protect the resulting product entering the nation's food supply. Supporting a food animal veterinarian in this area will provide critical production animal veterinary services, provide necessary regulatory services to producers and enhance the area's entire animal agriculture economy. This underserved area also supports 6 major livestock markets that require veterinary services. VMLRP support will reduce the pressure on a recent graduate to be sustainable in the first few years of practice. (197 words)

**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 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 procedures, obstetrical procedures, 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 organization 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. (200 words)

**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).**

Two veterinary practices in or bordering this county have posted advertisements to expand their existing practices, provide additional services to the underserved areas, or to replace retiring practitioners with limited success in filling the positions. There are also practices within the area who have hired new associates within the past 4 years that would like to be able to retain them and offer ownership in the practice for sustainability. Due to the high student loan payments, it is difficult to attract and retain veterinarians in rural setting when they can be hired elsewhere for \$10,000 to \$20,000 more per year. (100 words)

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).

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, and surveillance, recognition, and reporting of disease outbreaks. The proposed shortage area covers approximately 5,493 sq. miles with a livestock population in excess of 2 million animals and 11,121 farms. Within this area, there are only 25 practices with a veterinarian/animal ratio of one veterinarian per 35,181 animals. This county and its contiguous counties has a high density of food animals, making it critical to have adequate veterinary services for disease management and profitable production. There are 84 dairy farms in this county, plus there are numerous swine and sheep producers, and horse owners. Veterinary intervention and pre-harvest food safety is critical because of the number of goat dairies and associated consumption of raw milk products by 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 market. Failure to secure and retain adequate veterinary infrastructure in an underserved area contributes to an unacceptable increase in the risk of timely disease 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. (249 words)

(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.

60 %

**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: **David D. Schmitt, DVM**

Title: **State Veterinarian - Iowa**

Organization: **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship**

Email: **David.Schmitt@iowaagriculture.gov**

Telephone Number: **515-281-8601**  
(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, OIGM, 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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