## Search for five-state vet school site proceeding

The search for a site for a five-state regional veterinary school has continued since the Old West Regional Commission compiled an extensive report on the needs for such a school in February.

The five states planning to pool resources for a veterinary school are Montana, worth and South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska.

State Sen. Richard Maresh of Milligan last month requested another legislative hearing on the idea, suggesting that the now defunct Pershing College campus in Beatrice be used.

Maresh said last week that he has written to Nebraska State Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood, chairman of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, pointing out that there has not been a hearing since the study was made.

### Nebraska's chance

He said he is requesting the hearing so those who did the study could explain the findings to Schmit's committee, and to determine Nebraska's chance as a site for the school.

According to the vet school study, researched and written by Clarence Cole, dean of veterinarian science at Ohio State University and head of the Old West Regional Commission, the commission considered:

-Veterinary programs of education, re-

-Size and organization of the five state's college campuses, number of students, number of faculty

- -Optimal location.
- -Space requirements.
- -Operational costs.
- -Sources of those costs.

When a location is found, it will be about five years before the Old West College of Veterinary Medicine is opened, according to Cole's study.

#### Vet shortage

The report also said that in the absence of a regional College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), the shortage of veterinarians is estimated at 254 in 1980, 573 in 1985, and 1,028 in 1990.

In 1974 there were 646 preveterinary students in the region's universities. That number is estimated to be 869 in 1980 and nearly 1,000 in 1990.

Because many people want to become veterinarians, they could not achieve their goal without a regional vet school, the

study maintains. Veterinary colleges re-fused more than 88 per cent of the admission applications for the region in 1974 and more than 95 per cent are expected to be refused in 1975.

The study further states other possible benefits to be gained from a regional veterinary institution.

Research alone will increase the farm and ranch cash receipts in the region by \$128 million annually, the study showed.

With research, the college will provide patient referral service, diagnostic service, residency, internship and continuing education.

#### Alternatives

While the study evaluated four alternative approaches for veterinary students, it concluded that a CVM in the region is the "only viable, permanent solution." The alternatives are: recruitment of out-ofstate and foreign veterinarians as the state's sole supply; sending students to other states, which is what Nebraska does and the shared curriculum approach, where large classes are held away from the geographical center of the Old West Region.

The study reported that there is a link between animal science study and benefits to human health and disease study.

It is easier to gain admission to a medical school than a veterinary school, the report said.

There are 18 full-operating CVM's in 17 states in the United States, according to the report. In 1974, there were 12,003 applications to 19 veterinary colleges and 14 per cent were admitted. In 1975 the projection for admissions is 12.8. But, in 1972, 37 per cent of the applicants to medical schools around the country were admitted.

Since 1959, 40 per cent of Nebraska's vet students sent out-of-state on UNL's reciprocal agreement returned to practice veterinary medicine.

Applications and Admissions to U.S. Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, 1974 Applications Montana North Dakota South Dakota Wyoming Report by Dr. C.R. Cole, 1975

Students Enrolled in Universities of the Old West Region to fulfill requirements to apply to a CVM 1970-74 (estimated for 75, 80, 85)

State 1970 71 72 73 74 75 80 85 Mont. 192 222 222 250 250 250 312 312 Neb. 58 60 74 63 96 110 150 200 N.D. 54 74 91 110 105 115 157 177 S.D. 60 72 84 98 105 120 150 177 Wyo. 70 75 80 90 90 100 100 200 Total 434 503 551 611 646 695 869 991 N.D. S.D. Report by Dr. C.R. Cole, 1975

Number of veterinarians in the U.S. breakds wn in Old West states, Jan. 1974.

| umber of | f Veterinarians           | Area            |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 000,     |                           | U.S.            |
| ,009     |                           | Old West states |
| 193      |                           | Mont.           |
| 434      |                           | Neb.            |
| 97       | THE STATE OF THE STATE OF | N.D.            |
| 196      |                           | S.D.            |
| 89       | STATE OF THE PARTY.       | Wyo.            |
| -        |                           |                 |
|          |                           |                 |

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