

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: Hamilton, White, Wayne, Jefferson, Franklin, Saline, and Gallatin Counties
(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): McLeansboro, Illinois 62859
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [ ] Moderate Priority [x] High Priority [ ] 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): Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Swine, Poultry, Small Ruminant, Other
May cover: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Swine, Poultry, Small Ruminant, Other

[ ] 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 primary objective of a veterinarian in this position is to provide food animal veterinary services to the citizens of Hamilton County and surrounding contiguous counties. In addition, the practitioner will be able to serve as an additional set of “eyes” available for surveillance of potential foreign animal and emerging disease occurrence. According to recent USDA NASS data this region of the state has approximately 211,000 head of cattle and swine with a limited number of food animal practitioners to service this economically depressed region. Current estimates of the number of food animal practitioners per head of livestock indicate that there are in excess of 40,000 head of livestock per practitioner resulting in a potential risk to food safety, public health, and emergence of foreign animal disease resulting from the lack of veterinary oversight of livestock production.**

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).

**A private practitioner in this position will be responsible for diagnosis and treatment of diseases of food animals. The veterinarian may develop herd health programs for clients and provide educational services regarding livestock production and biosecurity. The veterinarian will be expected to develop a relationship with state and federal animal health regulatory officials and to report suspected cases of foreign animal diseases and reportable diseases under state statute. The veterinarian can be a great asset in the county by becoming involved in the state veterinary emergency response team and working with local emergency management agencies on issues related to livestock disease outbreaks and public health issues.**

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).

**Area food animal practices have posted position announcements for the past several years and those positions have either remained unfilled or failed to retain a practitioner. It is hoped that the loan repayment program will be useful as a tool for recruiting and retaining food animal practitioners within the community.**

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).

**The area that this veterinarian is positioned in has a moderate density of livestock. It is also closely located to state borders and interstate movement is a daily occurrence. The area is economically depressed which exacerbates the lack of herd health programs. Inadequate veterinary care can lead to increased disease incidence in livestock herds, misdiagnosis or no diagnosis of disease processes, and as a result may potentiate the improper use of medications leading to drug withdrawal violations and food safety concerns. Veterinary practitioners along with producers are critical in early recognition of foreign animal and exotic diseases. It is important that underserved areas such as this support and maintain a local veterinary practitioner to help ensure livestock health, food safety, and public health.**

(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.

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**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: Mark J. Ernst

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Illinois Department of Agriculture

Email: Mark.Ernst@illinois.gov

Telephone Number: 217/782-4944  
(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.