

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: State of Indiana
(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): Indiana State Board of Animal Health, Discovery Hall Suite 100
 1202 E 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority 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: _____

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: Indiana State Board of Animal Health Position Title: Director of Biosecurity and
 Emergency Preparedness

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).

While Indiana ranks 38th in land area among the nation's states, it holds high national production rankings in key agricultural sectors. Indiana ranks 1st in ducks, 3rd in chickens, 5th in hogs, and is home to 16% of the nation's total herd of milk cows. Indiana's economy and workforce depend heavily on a biosecure and resilient livestock industry and the uninterrupted ability to market and export animal products. The high numbers, high density, and wide species distribution that describe Indiana's livestock inventory increase the state's vulnerability to incidents including high consequence disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and acts of bioterrorism.

The objectives of the veterinarian in this position are to continually advance the biosecurity of Indiana's livestock operations, maintain robust surveillance activities, enhance emergency planning and preparedness initiatives, and improve the state of Indiana's ability to rapidly detect, contain, and eliminate diseases of significance to animal and public health, safety, and welfare.

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 this veterinarian in the state of Indiana are extensive and far-reaching. The individual conducts outreach to animal owners and producers, veterinary students and professionals, livestock industry group leaders, and market operators regarding the importance and specifics of sound biosecurity measures and disease prevention and early detection. This veterinarian possesses expertise in disease surveillance and epidemiology and works to increase the efficiency by which animal movement data and laboratory results are assimilated and analyzed to improve animal disease traceability. This veterinarian leads educational programs and exercises for allied partners to strengthen the preparedness of Indiana's agriculture industry. The individual maintains close, cooperative working relationships with various state agencies and organizations as well as with numerous first responder agencies and extension educators. The veterinarian works with local groups including Indiana's Food Safety and Defense Task Force and the Indiana Ag Risk Committee to help maintain a safe and secure food supply and to protect against entry of foreign animal disease agents or invasive species through Indiana's six ports of entry. In addition, this individual serves as the state's point-of-contact and delegate on national planning groups including the Multi-state Partnership for Security in Agriculture and the National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs. This veterinarian furthermore serves as the director and coordinator of Indiana's Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps which consists of 70 private practicing veterinarians rostered to respond in emergency situations.

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).

This nominated position is currently filled, however in the face of six-figure student loan debt, retention risk is a reality. With the clear and significant gap between the salary of a veterinarian in public service and that of a private practicing or industry veterinarian, the VMLRP is a crucial, tangible incentive for retention and continued service of this veterinarian. This individual has advanced training in Veterinary Homeland Security and is a USDA trained Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician that will devote at least 85% of their professional efforts toward meeting the objectives listed above.

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 veterinary profession is presently challenged with developing and maintaining on-farm biosecurity protocols and preparedness measures to protect the nation's food supply from acts of bioterrorism and the growing threat of foreign animal diseases. This challenge comes at a time when the supply of food animal veterinarians in the United States is progressively in decline, and raises the possibility that the profession is not adequately prepared to fulfill its responsibilities to the health and productivity of the US livestock and poultry populations. Meanwhile, with the steady forecast of an increasing global population, the United States is well positioned to capitalize on the opportunity to feed the world. However, the prospect of continuing to increase agricultural exports comes with extraordinary economic risks if state and

federal resources are not invested in veterinary biosecurity and all-hazards emergency preparedness. It is essential that Indiana is able to retain a qualified individual whose principal duty is to strengthen the state's biosecurity through education and training, to work collaboratively with partners locally and across the county in planning and preparedness efforts, and to enhance animal disease surveillance and ensure rapid traceability. Without these efforts, Indiana runs the risk of delay in recognizing and controlling disease and responding promptly and appropriately in disasters. Crucial delays may have considerable effects on animal health, public health, food safety and security, and the fitness of the agricultural economy not only in Indiana, but across the nation and around the globe.

(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.

85%

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: **Bret D. Marsh, DVM**

Title: **Indiana State Veterinarian**
Organization: **Indiana State Board of Animal Health**
Email: **bmarsh@boah.in.gov**
Telephone Number: **(317) 544-2400**
(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, OGFIM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.