

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

Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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):

11367 East Purdue Farm Road, Dubois, IN 47527

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage:

- Moderate Priority High Priority XX 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: Purdue University Position Title: Laboratory Director

Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety Public Health Epidemiology Other: Diagnostic Pathology

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 Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is located in very rural southwestern Indiana. It was established nearly 50 years ago as a satellite laboratory for the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) located at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Southwestern Indiana is a major poultry and beef cattle production area.

The Director's position at the Heeke Laboratory has been vacant for nearly a year. The Laboratory has not had a veterinary pathologist/diagnostician during this time. A candidate has been identified to assume the role of Director, but he will not be able to fill the position until later this year. This long hiatus has placed the Indiana cattle and poultry industries in a very vulnerable position.

A veterinarian meeting this shortage situation must have completed advanced training in veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine (such as pathology, toxicology, microbiology, or virology), become proficient in the recognition and diagnosis of diseases of food animals and poultry, including those caused by infectious diseases, nutrient imbalances, or chemical contamination, and be employed in Indiana as a veterinary laboratory diagnostician. During their overall training in diagnostic pathology and the pathogenesis of disease, this person must be able to recognize and respond to foreign animal diseases. Working closely with practicing food animal veterinarians and state/federal veterinarians, this diagnostician will provide expertise for the recognition, diagnosis, and reporting for diseases of food animals thus providing a crucial link contributing to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to safeguarding animal, human and environmental health in the state.

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 veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in diagnostic veterinary medicine will serve as the Director of the Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Dubois, IN, which will place him in a key position to observe and diagnose diseases of livestock and poultry and to communicate those findings with referring veterinarians, the USDA Assistant District Director (ADD), and the State Veterinarian. Expert diagnostics by this individual, in conjunction with other diagnosticians and State/Federal animal health authorities will aid in the rapid recognition and reporting of animal diseases of critical importance to the Indiana livestock and poultry industries.

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 position is currently vacant and has been for nearly a year. Since the retirement of the previous Director, there has not been a Veterinary Pathologist/Diagnostician at the Heeke Laboratory. The Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is a satellite laboratory that is located in a very rural area of southwestern Indiana. Although the area is not densely populated with people, it is the most concentrated area for beef cattle and poultry production. The State of Indiana is extremely

vulnerable to an undiagnosed disease in the livestock and poultry populations because of this critical vacancy. After an exhaustive search, a candidate has been selected, but he will not begin his service as Laboratory Director until the Spring of 2014. The successful DVM/PhD candidate is a new graduate, and because of his many years of academic training, he has considerable student debt. The VMLRP is the best opportunity to keep him in this critical position or he may be forced to leave this position to seek higher paying employment so he can pay his student debt. Veterinarians with expertise in diagnostic pathology are generally paid considerably more in private/corporate practice than they would be paid at a diagnostic laboratory and therefore they are in much better position to pay their educational loans if they enter private/corporate practice. The VMLRP is the best hope of keeping this candidate in the Director's position.

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 risk is very real, and the State of Indiana has been vulnerable for nearly a year. Indiana has experienced a rapid expansion in turkey production, and most of that production growth is within 40 miles of the Heeke Diagnostic Laboratory. Major egg laying companies, as well as broiler production expansion, have flourished in this area of the state. Further, Indiana's beef cattle production, specifically the cow/calf sector, is located within 65 miles of the Heeke Diagnostic Laboratory. Without veterinary diagnostic services, the next "PED-like" disease to hit the poultry or cattle populations may be missed because a veterinary diagnostician was not in place at the Heeke Laboratory. Rapid and accurate diagnostics are absolutely essential to mount an effective response. Indiana must have a qualified veterinary diagnostician at the Heeke Laboratory to avert a disease disaster.

Veterinary diagnosticians are trained to rapidly recognize, diagnose, and report diseases of food animals. Lack of trained veterinarians in these positions will result in a failure or delay in the recognition of serious infectious diseases or chemical contamination in food animals thus risking the local, state and national food supply to disease and chemical contamination. In cases of chemical/metal contamination of food animals, not only is the food supply at risk, but disposal of the contaminated animals and product into the rendering stream, or by unregulated burial can have potentially far-reaching environmental consequences. It is critical to have trained veterinary diagnosticians who can diagnose diseases, who know the appropriate reporting chain, and who are able to recognize and assist with cases requiring extraordinary efforts.

(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
bmarsh@boah.in.gov

Email: 317/544-2400

Telephone Number: _____
(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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
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