

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, District 4 (Counties of Benton, White, Cass, Carroll, Clinton, Tippecanoe, Warren, Fountain and Montgomery)
(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): Lafayette, IN
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

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: _____

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: _____

(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 above, 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.

%

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 1500 characters).

Indiana is divided into ten districts that are utilized by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana State Department of Health. Data was collected to determine the population of animals in District 4, as well as the number of veterinarians in the District that provide food animal veterinary services. Additionally, Indiana has a required livestock premises identification program that has been active since 2005, so the number of registered livestock premises was also considered. Finally, the area of the District in square miles was also factored into the final determination of need for veterinary services. When each of the ten Districts was ranked by number of registered farms per veterinarian, number of animals per veterinarian, and the area in square miles to be serviced per veterinarian, District 4 in Northwest Indiana ranked second to the highest in terms of need for veterinary services.

The objectives of a veterinarian serving in District 4 are to provide veterinary medical services in an area that does not have sufficient veterinary coverage, to provide a means of disease treatment, detection and surveillance that currently is inadequate, and to support the local economy by providing services that enhance the viability of rural communities.

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 1500 characters or less).

The veterinarian serving in District 4 will be expected to provide veterinary medical services in the predominantly rural areas of northwestern Indiana. This 9-county area is largely comprised of small livestock producers widely distributed throughout the area. It is expected that the veterinarian will be able to address a wide range of veterinary medical tasks on a variety of livestock species. Further, the expectation is that the veterinarian will become an integral part of the community by providing educational programming to producers, extension educators, 4-H members and the public. Another critically important role of the veterinarian in this District is the detection of foreign and reportable diseases. Indiana relies upon practicing veterinarians to constantly be aware of the threat of foreign animal diseases. In an area of the state that has inadequate veterinary coverage, the risk associated with undetected disease is enormous and the impacts could be catastrophic.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

District 4 in northwestern Indiana is a nine county area that is currently served by eighteen food animal veterinarians. Most of these veterinarians have attempted to hire an associate practitioner to join them in the area without success. This District has the highest number of food animals per veterinarian of the ten Indiana districts, and many of the producers do not have large numbers of animals. Therefore, it has been very challenging for veterinarians in the District to provide services to many of these producers who often live great distances from the nearest veterinary clinic.

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 2000 characters or less).

District 4 is the area of the state with a large number of swine. Carroll, Cass and Clinton counties rank as some of the most populous swine counties in the nation. Additionally, this District is home to many premises with small ruminants and cattle. This District ranked second in the area in square miles per veterinarian therefore it has become increasingly difficult to provide veterinary services to the large number of animals over a large geographic area.

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) considers adequate veterinary support in the District as essential to the goals of providing safe and wholesome food to citizens throughout the country, providing prompt detection, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of livestock, providing professional advice on nutrition, biosecurity, and housing of animals, and providing services that maintain the viability of rural Indiana. BOAH's expectation is that the veterinarian in will become an integral part of the fabric of the District by providing local leadership and service to communities throughout the District.

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

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(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.