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: Elkhart, Lagrange, Kosciusko, Noble, Allen, Huntington, Adams, Jay, & Randolph, IN

Poultry Dense Counties in Indiana Districts 2, 3, & 6

(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):

Columbia City, 46725

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

**Overall Priority of Shortage:**

Critical Priority

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

Type I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

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: Equine, camelids

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.

90 %
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).

Over the last decade, Indiana has seen a 78.9% increase in animal agriculture output which represents a transformative upsurge in production second only to Rhode Island nationally. Furthermore, while geographically Indiana ranks 38th in land area and is the smallest US state west of the Appalachians, it holds high national production rankings, particularly in poultry. Indiana now ranks 1st nationally in duck production, 2nd in laying hen inventory, 2nd in egg-type hatch, and 4th in turkeys raised. This exceptional growth must urgently be met with extraordinary efforts to recruit and secure veterinary professionals with advanced training in avian production medicine and diagnostics.

An individual filling this shortage situation will provide veterinary services to independent or company-owned commercial poultry operations in any portion of the nine counties most densely populated with poultry in Northeastern Indiana. The center of this shortage area is within a 50-mile radius of over 650 commercial poultry operations. The veterinarian will focus on increasing prevention, early detection, and rapid control and eradication of diseases of consequence to poultry production, food security, and public health.

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 candidate meeting this shortage situation will use their advanced expertise in poultry health to aid in delivering the highest standard of preventative medicine and diagnostics to commercial operations in the area. The individual will collaborate with poultry owners, production managers, and caretakers to implement comprehensive biosecurity measures and provide ongoing education related to disease prevention techniques and successful methods for prompt disease detection. The successful candidate will engage in statewide and industry endeavors, exercises, and training designed and intended to improve Indiana's preparedness and response to high-consequence diseases. He or she will help ensure the training of local poultry producers and managers on state and federal disease response plans and the role these individuals will need to fulfill to achieve rapid and successful implementation of these plans. Additionally, the candidate will continuously engage with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health and the Indiana State Poultry Association and will actively participate in statewide avian health policy initiatives. The candidate will assure effective implementation of, and compliance with, the National Poultry Improvement Plan. Finally, this individual shall be a member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and must commit to staying on the forefront of worldwide industry research and developments in microbiology, immunology, pathology, and epidemiology.

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).

The remarkable growth and significant economic value of the state's poultry industry has compelled several Indiana poultry companies to seek the services of full time veterinarians. In the face of this high demand for veterinary services in the Indiana poultry industry, the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine has now integrated a poultry health block in the rotation schedule of clinical year students and, since 2012, has been home to a fully endowed teaching program in poultry medicine which supports graduate students in a 3-year training and residency program. At this point though, the reality remains that the pool of veterinarians with the desire and advanced expertise to practice poultry medicine is very small.

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).

With the recent US outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), Indiana has both witnessed and experienced first hand the devastation of infectious disease incidents affecting the poultry industry. Indiana's vulnerability to a catastrophic avian disease event increases as the number and size of poultry operations in our state continue to grow. The interdependent and multi-layered nature of the poultry industry becomes noticeably evident when a disease strikes and an immediate and effective response is not implemented. Consequences are far-reaching and touch feed producers, supply and equipment retailers, the transportation industry, food processors, wholesalers, and retailers. Food security is threatened, and international trade repercussions are severe and economically damaging. Undoubtedly, we are also at risk of a zoonotic disease introduction causing substantial human health implications.

While Indiana was humbled to receive much praise for a quick response and containment of our own commercial HPAI outbreak in 2016, the truth is that we had some distinct advantages. One notable advantage was that each of the poultry companies affected by the virus uniquely had staff veterinarians. Disease detection and timely diagnosis in the index flock was made under the direction of the company's veterinarian. Diagnostic sampling of nearly 75 commercial flocks that were close by or epidemiologically-linked to the index case occurred overnight and led to the identification of all 9 additional positive flocks the very next day. The speed of area surveillance was nationally unprecedented and largely attributable to the work of the staff veterinarians who had collaborated with the State on preparedness initiatives and carefully prepared flock supervisors and producers for a successful response. Recruiting and retaining full time poultry veterinarians is unquestionably and urgently crucial to a safe and secure food supply and public health in Indiana and nationwide.
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
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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.