

# 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](http://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: Counties of Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee, and Schoolcraft  
 Eastern portion of the Upper Peninsula

(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): Newberry, MI 4968

(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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan is a large rural area and is underserved by veterinarians with 5 of 7 eastern counties which do not have a single food animal veterinarian. The overall food animal population in the Eastern Upper Peninsula is approximately 36,000 with many small herds of cattle and flocks of poultry and sheep in very rural areas. In addition the veterinarians practicing food animal medicine are at a point in their career where they want to slow down. Therefore, food animal veterinarians are needed in this area. Due to large geographic area a veterinarian will not have enough business from food animals only and therefore must also care for companion animals to maintain an economically viable practice. It is expected that a veterinarian working in this shortage area would devote a minimum of 30% of their time to the practice of food animal medicine. The objectives of having veterinary coverage for the food animals in the Eastern Upper Peninsula would include providing services that protect the health and well-being of the food animals, improving productivity of the animals thus enhancing the viability of the food animal industry in the rural areas, protecting the food supply, conducting testing in association with disease control programs, and detecting the emergence of new or foreign animal diseases.

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).

Activities include:

- Developing preventative medicine programs for herds and flocks
- Diagnosing disease and correcting disease including provision of medications, surgery, diet changes, etc.
- Conducting necropsies on animals that die and cooperating with the diagnostic laboratory to identify the cause of death.
- Recommending and evaluating biosecurity measures to prevent disease from entering the farm.
- Identifying new diseases or new presentations of old diseases.
- Identifying zoonotic or foreign animal diseases and cooperating with animal and public health authorities in the investigation of and response to such occurrences.

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).

In 2010, Michigan designated the entire Upper Peninsula as a shortage area. A position was offered and accepted per the VMLRP website. No further information is known at this time. Recruitment of food animal veterinarians to rural areas is difficult and positions often remain unfilled for several years. It is difficult for practitioners hired into or choosing to serve in rural areas to have sufficient income to repay their school loans.

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).

Veterinarians engaged in food animal veterinary medicine work on the front lines of animal and public health. These veterinarians are often the first to identify new diseases or conditions, to notice an increased prevalence in disease, to identify the occurrence of zoonotic diseases, and to identify diseases or conditions which may affect the human food supply, and as such, have the responsibility to be first responders for the detection and on-going surveillance for a host of agents associated with bioterrorism, agroterrorism, and food safety.

(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: James Averill, DVM, PhD

Title: State Veterinarian and Director  
Animal Industry Division

Organization: Michigan Department of Agriculture  
and Rural Development

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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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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