

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: This area covers Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, and Koochiching Counties and parts of Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, and Aitkin Counties (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): Bemidji, MN 56601 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [] High Priority X 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:

X Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 40 percent time or 16 hr/week)

- Must cover (check at least one) X Beef Cattle [] Dairy Cattle [] Swine [] Poultry X Small Ruminant [] Other: May cover [] Beef Cattle X Dairy Cattle X Swine X 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 primary objective for this shortage is to provide veterinary services for beef cattle producers and other food animal producers distributed over a wide geographic area of north central and northeastern Minnesota. Much of the agricultural land in this area is grazing pasture or in hay production, suited to raising beef cattle. Two of the seven counties in this area are in the top ten Minnesota counties for beef cows (NASS 2012 statistics). AVMA data from 2006 on the Food Animal Concentration per Food Animal Veterinarian shows four of seven counties as having no food animal veterinarians. In the recent past, producers have had limited veterinary services for their animals, treating animals on their own or euthanizing animals that couldn't receive treatment in a timely manner.

Another objective is to work with producers to develop robust herd health programs with the goal of financial health for these farms. A third objective is to serve as an expert in food animal medicine and animal health for the local area. Bemidji (pop. 13,500) is a commercial and regional hub with a state university; only one other food animal veterinarian is located within a 25 mile radius of this town.

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).

This veterinarian would examine, diagnose, and treat animals on the farm including performing basic surgical and obstetrical procedures. They would also be able to: 1) necropsy and collect samples from livestock carcasses for diagnostic evaluation, 2) implement herd health programs on the farm, 3) educate producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, nutrition, animal husbandry and welfare, and appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals, 4) assist producers with herd management to maintain productivity and farm profitability, 5) provide emergency services on evenings and weekends, 4) maintain a Category II accredited veterinarian certification to provide regulatory services needed by livestock producers (ie. brucellosis vaccination of cattle, writing certificates of veterinary inspection for livestock, testing cattle for bovine tuberculosis, etc.), and 5) identify and report diseases as required by state or federal regulations.

A veterinarian successful in this position would serve community needs as an expert in food animal health and medicine by participating in local service organizations to share their expertise. They would also promote the veterinary profession by participating in state and local veterinary medical associations.

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).

At least one practitioner in the area is looking for additional food animal veterinary help but understands recent graduates are looking for positions with additional compensation (JAVMA 10/15/13. Facts and Figures on 2013 graduates). Current starting salaries for private practitioners range from \$66,491 - 70,113 (reference as above) with Minnesota graduates carrying a mean debt load of \$188,100 (UMCVM Dean's office, 2014). The VMLRP nomination would provide an additional incentive for recruiting or retaining a veterinarian in this area.

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).

If food animal veterinarian resources are not secured in this area livestock producers could go without or have very limited access to veterinary services. A clinic closed within the last year to the west of this area, reducing the number of food animal veterinarians on the area's western side. This shortage area is likely to persist into the near future given the age of veterinarians practicing around the area; several are over 70 years of age, the rest with one exception are over 50. Only one food animal veterinarian is within 25 miles of Bemidji with fewer food animal veterinarians to the east and north to Canada.

Veterinarians educate producers on animal health and are often the first to identify disease problems in livestock and report diseases where needed. The viability of livestock producers and local economies in this area will be adversely affected if a minimum level of veterinary expertise cannot be maintained in the area. The lack of veterinary services could: 1) increase disease or reproductive losses resulting in decreased viability for producers, 2) delay the recognition of disease allowing spread with greater impact, 3) prompt producers to treat animals on their own perhaps improperly using pharmaceuticals or biologics which could contaminate food, or 4) allow sick or non-performing animals to be moved into the food supply. The consequences of unhealthy animals entering the food supply could impact not only the community, but the state and nation.

(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.

40%

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: William L. Hartmann, DVM MS

Title: Executive Director and State Veterinarian

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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Telephone Number: 651-201-6825
(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, OIGM, 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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