

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 includes Stearns, Kandiyohi, and Meeker Counties, and southwestern Benton County
(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): Cold Spring, MN 56320
(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).

This shortage area is in an intensive animal agricultural area of the state with dairy as the primary livestock group. Stearns County is number one in the state for cattle population, milk cow numbers, and alfalfa hay production, in the top five for beef cows and oats (NASS 2012 statistics). Several clinics hired recent veterinary graduates in the last two to three years as large animal veterinarians in those clinics retired, reduced their food animal work hours, or died. These counties were identified in previous shortage nominations but replacing and retaining food animal veterinarians is still an issue. It is critical to retain food animal veterinary expertise in this area to support these livestock producers. The objectives of a veterinarian in this shortage situation would be to provide a full range of food animal veterinary services in a full time position, be a local resource for food animal health and related public health issues, and participate in local organizations to share this expertise.

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).

A veterinarian meeting this shortage would conduct the following activities:

- 1) On farm examination, diagnosis and treatment of sick animals including reproductive exams and obstetrical procedures, preventive practices such as vaccination, development of herd health or flock plans, and night or weekend emergency services
- 2) Animal necropsies and sample collection for submission to a diagnostic laboratory
- 3) Educate producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, nutrition, animal husbandry and welfare, and appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals
- 4) Maintain a Category II veterinary accreditation to provide regulatory services and documents for local producers including writing certificates of veterinary inspection, testing cattle for bovine tuberculosis, or vaccinating calves for brucellosis
- 5) Identify and report diseases as required by state or federal regulation
- 6) Assist producers with herd level management to maintain productivity and farm profitability.
- 7) 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).

Two veterinary clinics serving this area advertised for a mixed animal practitioner in 2012, and one clinic advertised for a dairy practitioner in 2013. Although practices can recruit new graduates, retention is a concern due to student loan debt with current starting salaries for private practitioners ranging from \$66,491 - 70,113 (JAVMA 10/15/13, Facts and Figures on 2013 graduates) and a mean debt load of \$188,100 for Minnesota veterinary graduates (UMCVM Dean's office, 2014). The VMLRP nomination would provide an additional incentive to hire or retain a food animal 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).

Veterinarian demographics in this area appear to be changing and veterinary services must be secured and retained in this intensive animal agricultural area for Minnesota to continue to raise healthy livestock and provide wholesome animal products to support the state and nation's food supply. Veterinarians are the 'first responders' recognizing, treating, and reporting animal diseases in food animals. The viability of the strong agricultural economy in this area would be impacted by a reduction in food animal veterinary expertise through: 1) delays in the recognition of disease allowing disease spread with greater impact, 2) potential improper use of pharmaceuticals or biologics by producers treating animals which could harm animals or contaminate food, or 3) movement of sick or non-performing animals into the food supply. The community would also be impacted without these professionals contributing to local agricultural organizations and serving as a source of expertise in animal and public health, zoonotic disease, and animal care. It is critical to continue to support veterinary medicine in this area to ensure the health of our food animals and the agricultural economy.

(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.

95%

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

Email: Bill.Hartmann@state.mn.us

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, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.