

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: An approximately 35 mile radius around Tracy in southwestern Minnesota encompassing Brown, Cottonwood, Redwood, Lincoln, Lyon, and Murray 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): Tracy, MN 56175 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

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

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

[X] 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)

- [X] Beef Cattle
[X] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[X] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[X] Swine
[X] 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 the most intensive agricultural area of Minnesota including counties in the top ten for soybean and corn production, cattle on feed, and sheep and lambs (2012 NASS Statistics). AVMA data from 2006 on Food Animal Concentration per Food Animal Veterinarian depicts three of the five counties in this area with some of the highest concentrations of food animals per veterinarian (75,000-100,000 animals per vet). To maintain the agricultural economy in this area it is critical to have trained and retained food animal veterinary expertise to provide continuity of veterinary services to area livestock producers. These counties were identified in previous shortage nominations but replacing and retaining food animal veterinarians is still an issue. The objectives of a veterinarian in this shortage situation would be to provide a full range of food animal veterinary services, 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) Veterinary services in feedlot operations
- 3) Animal necropsies and sample collection for submission to a diagnostic laboratory
- 4) Educate producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, nutrition, animal husbandry and welfare, and appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals
- 5) 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 TB, or vaccinating calves for brucellosis
- 6) Identify and report diseases as required by state or federal regulation
- 7) Assist producers with herd level management to maintain productivity and farm profitability.
- 8) 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).

Although practices can recruit veterinarians to this highly agricultural area, retention is a concern with current starting salaries for food animal 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). In this area, one clinic wants to hire a veterinarian in anticipation of a veterinarian retiring from the practice in the near future. Two other clinics hired food animal veterinarians in the past year. The VMLRP nomination would provide an incentive to hire or retain veterinarians 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).

This area is experiencing a turnover of food animal practitioners with recent and anticipated retirements and one veterinarian reducing hours worked in food animal practice; several new veterinarians have been hired in the last year. The risk in not securing additional food animal veterinarian resources in this area means this expertise is less available to producers. 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 with the potential to improperly use pharmaceuticals or biologics harming the animals or contaminating food, or 4) allow sick or non-performing animals to be moved into the food supply. Food animal veterinarians play a vital role in educating producers on animal health as well as identifying disease problems in livestock and reporting diseases where needed. 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.

%

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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013