

# 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: Minnesota  
(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): Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
1333 Gortner Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: High Priority

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

Type III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

#### For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: University of Minnesota Position Title: Veterinary Diagnostician

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Veterinary Pathology

(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.

**75** %

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).

Importance: The Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) has one of the leading residency programs in the country and continues to provide training for a recognized national shortage of food animal pathologists (Cockerell et al., Veterinary Pathology, 2009). Although the lab has received previous shortage nominations that were awarded, a shortage still exists and this nomination would provide support to another resident for this field.

Objectives:

- 1) Gain specialized training in pathology and lab based diagnostics, and understand how this information is used in disease surveillance, prevention / control programs and food animal herd management
- 2) Serve as a veterinary pathologist for the lab conducting diagnostic evaluations of submitted animals
- 3) Work cooperatively with animal and public health agencies and organizations to solve disease problems in food animal production
  - a. Partners include USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network, Minnesota's Board of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, the UMN School of Public Health, and food animal organizations such as Minnesota Pork Producers
  - b. Specific projects include control and prevention of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus in swine herds and surveillance/control of chronic wasting disease
- 4) Receive training in ultrastructural pathology focusing on disease pathogens of domestic animals and wildlife

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).

This three year residency provides a broad exposure to food animal, companion animal, avian, laboratory animal and zoo/wildlife cases. Residents' responsibilities include performing necropsies, interpreting laboratory results and histological lesions, training and teaching veterinary students, writing necropsy and histopathology reports, and communicating with veterinarians and animal producers. Residents also work with officials in public health, agriculture and natural resource management. Additionally, residents receive training in diagnosis of foreign animal diseases at the USDA's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory on Plum Island. This University of Minnesota residency training program is highly regarded nationally and was the only one to be selected by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for a residency exchange program. This program has had a high success rate producing food animal veterinary pathologists as most (over 80%) students taking the American College of Veterinary Pathology Board Examination in the past 5 years passed the examination.

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).

MVDL currently has been seeking a food animal pathology resident for the past year and has not yet identified a qualified individual for the position. There are very few individuals with this training available for recruitment into diagnostic laboratory positions. High debt loads from veterinary school combined with lower incomes in food animal diagnostic pathology compared with private industry, make recruitment of veterinary pathologists increasingly challenging. Funding from the VMLRP program would provide an important incentive for recruiting individuals into residency programs in diagnostic food animal pathology.

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).

Food animal pathologists are at the forefront of disease surveillance and identification. As one of the busiest diagnostic laboratories in the country, the MVDL received almost 58,000 accessions for disease investigations from 2013-14 and performed over 1.4 million procedures. Maintaining this expertise at the MVDL is critical for Minnesota's food animal health and for the nation's food supply as Minnesota is the fifth largest producer of agricultural products in the country and seventh largest agricultural exporter. For years, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the American College of Veterinary Pathologists have recognized a shortage of diagnostic veterinary pathologists, particularly in the food animal sector (Cockerell et al., Veterinary Pathology, 2009). The MVDL has a track record for training food animal pathologists working in areas of disease control and prevention on a statewide and national scale. Funding from the VMLRP program will allow the MVDL to become even more competitive in recruiting and retaining veterinarians in this shortage area. If we do not continue to train food animal diagnostic pathologists, the negative impact on animal health and food safety could be substantial. Disease outbreaks could have a devastating effect not only on Minnesota's agriculture and economy, but potentially at a national and international level. At a relatively minor cost, the loan repayment program can help to ensure that food animal diagnosticians are available in adequate numbers to meet the current and future challenges in disease control and food safety.

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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(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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.