

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: Central Minnesota including Benton, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Sherburne, and Stearns 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): Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

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: _____ Position Title: _____

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: _____

(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.

%

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).

Minnesota has a poultry veterinarian shortage within integrated poultry companies. A veterinarian's importance in this role is to provide animal health and welfare expertise in the production and management of poultry flocks for the company. The objectives include maintaining and improving flock health by working with producers or farm managers to identify disease or health concerns in their flock and monitoring routine farm practices like biosecurity and vaccination administration to protect flock health.

Minnesota has several areas of intense poultry production in the state. A veterinarian located in central Minnesota - the Stearns / Benton county area would be within 100 miles of more than half of the state's poultry production (broiler, turkey and egg layers). Minnesota has more independent commercial turkey growers than any other state and a broiler company that works with individual growers. A key to Minnesota's success in raising poultry has been its ability to work cooperatively with the MN Board of Animal Health and the University of Minnesota to detect, control, and eradicate avian diseases. During the recent outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza, veterinarians working with poultry producers were critical in identifying disease early and implementing high level biosecurity measures to minimize spread.

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).

A veterinarian's activities in this position include working with producers on management issues to ensure flock health, monitoring routine practices such as vaccination programs and troubleshooting flock health problems with the producer. They would provide diagnostic interpretation of routine flock testing, perform necropsies and interpret findings in monitoring routine mortality or in mortality events of concern. In this position, a veterinarian must also be knowledgeable about biosecurity procedures to minimize the potential for introduction of disease into flocks and about animal welfare standards to ensure the proper handling and treatment of poultry. Another component could include working with the hatcheries in these companies to monitor the management and health of hatching eggs and day old chicks. This veterinarian would also participate in statewide discussions on avian health surveillance, response, research, and policy issues.

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).

Historically, Minnesota has had difficulty attracting and retaining qualified poultry veterinarians in private practice or with integrated companies. One factor is our climate, especially for veterinarians trained in the southern US. Recently, several poultry veterinarians in this sector have left their positions to retire, take non-veterinary practice positions with other companies, or move to other areas of the country. The VMLRP award would help to retain recently hired veterinarians or recruit additional veterinarians to ensure the health of Minnesota poultry.

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).

For integrated companies, adequate veterinary staff is necessary for implementation of avian health program that insure flock health and to meet federal regulations and international trade requirements. Increasingly, trading partners are using phytosanitary and bird health issues as artificial barriers to improve their bargaining position.

The risk of not having sufficient poultry veterinarian expertise in Minnesota would be an impact to animal and human health, not only locally but nationally. The occurrence of HPAI in 2015 in the Midwest certainly emphasized the need for veterinary expertise in our poultry sector. Highly contagious and transmissible diseases require close monitoring and quick identification and response when to illness occurs in birds. As pathogens in our food supply become more of an issue and the use of antibiotics are decreasing, veterinarians play an important role in the production of safe and wholesome food.

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