

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 Kittson, Roseau, Red Lake, Marshall, Pennington and Polk Counties, and parts of Clearwater and Beltrami 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): Thief River Falls, MN 56701
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical Priority

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

Type II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/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: _____ 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).

The primary objective for this veterinarian is to provide veterinary services for livestock producers distributed over a wide geographic area of northwestern Minnesota. This area is highly agricultural with crop farming of spring wheat, alfalfa hay and soybeans. Beef cow herds and dairy cattle are also part of this agricultural economy (NASS 2012 statistics). Recent changes have decreased the number of practicing food animal practitioners in this area from 7 to 5 FTEs in the past 1½ years. Along with the age demographic of the area solo practice veterinarians, at least two veterinarians are interested in hiring additional veterinary help. AVMA data from 2006 show the Food Animal Concentration per Food Animal Veterinarian in four of the eight counties for this area have no food animal veterinarians. Food animal veterinarians must be recruited if veterinary services are to be maintained. Another objective for this veterinarian is to serve the area as an expert in food animal medicine and animal health. Thief River Falls (pop. 8,600) is the area population center with a community college and technical college.

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 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, and 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, TB testing cattle, etc.).

A veterinarian successful in this position would serve community needs as an expert in food animal health and medicine and participate 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 750 characters or less).

With a recent reduction in food animal practitioners in this area, other clinics are ready to hire veterinarians. The ability to offer additional compensation to recruit a veterinarian to this more rural remote area would be valuable as recent graduates are seeking and preferably selecting positions with monetary incentives to offset student loan debt. Starting salaries for private practitioners range from \$66,491 - 70,113 (JAVMA 10/15/13. Facts and Figures on 2013 graduates) and Minnesota graduates carry a mean debt load of \$188,100 (UMCVVM Dean's office, 2014). The VMLRP nomination would provide an incentive to recruit veterinarians to 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 2000 characters or less).

The risk in not securing additional food animal veterinarian resources in this area means veterinary services are reduced with the recent reduction in practitioners. The largest veterinary clinic in this area closed within the last year reducing the number of food animal veterinarians by two FTEs; other practitioners reduced their time spent on food animal practice as a work preference. The viability of livestock producers and local economies will be adversely affected if a minimum level of veterinary expertise cannot be maintained in the area.

Food animal veterinarians play a vital role in educating producers on animal health and are often the first to identify disease problems in livestock and report diseases where needed. 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 use pharmaceuticals or biologics improperly which could harm animals or 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 the community and the state and nation. In addition, the local area would be impacted without these professionals contributing to community agricultural organizations and serving as a source of expertise in animal and public health, zoonotic disease, and animal care.

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.