

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: Aitkin, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties in 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): Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(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 II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

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|--|--|
| <p>Must cover(check at least one)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p>May cover</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|--|--|

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.

50 %

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 shortage is to provide veterinary services for beef and dairy cattle producers and other food animal producers distributed over a wide geographic area of northeastern Minnesota. Much of the agricultural land in this area is grazing pasture or in hay production, suited to raising beef cattle. Cass County is the county with the fifth highest beef cow population in the state (NASS 2012 statistics). AVMA data from 2006 on the Food Animal Concentration per Food Animal Veterinarian shows two of these five counties having no food animal veterinarians with low animal populations in two other counties. In the recent past, producers have had limited veterinary services for their animals, treating animals on their own or euthanizing animals that couldn't receive treatment in a timely manner.

Another objective for this veterinarian is to work with producers to develop robust herd health programs with the goal of financial health for these farms. A third objective is to serve as an expert in food animal medicine and animal health for the local area. Grand Rapids (pop. 11,000) is a commercial and regional hub with a University of Minnesota Research and Outreach Center and a community 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).

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
- 9) Serve community needs as an expert in food animal health and medicine by participating in local service organizations to share expertise

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 the low density of food animals in this area, it is difficult to recruit veterinarians with large animal expertise or interest and requires a mixed animal practice approach to support full time work for a veterinarian. One large animal veterinarian recently left practice in this area. Current veterinarian starting salaries from \$67,000 - \$70,000 and a mean debt load for all new veterinarians of \$135,000 (AVMA Report on Veterinary Debt and Income, May 2015) require recent graduates to consider incentives or the most lucrative work to offset this debt load. The VMLRP nomination would provide an additional incentive for recruiting or retaining a 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 2000 characters or less).

If food animal veterinarian resources are not secured in this area livestock producers could go without or have very limited access to veterinary services, especially emergency services. Veterinarians educate producers on animal health and are often the first to identify disease problems in livestock and report diseases where needed. 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 perhaps improperly using pharmaceuticals or biologics which could 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 not only the community, but the state and nation.

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.