

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: State of Missouri
(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): Columbia, MO
(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 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 Missouri Position Title: Swine Extension Veterinarian

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: swine health and welfare

(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).

Missouri is ranked 7th nationally in the total number of swine (hogs and pigs) in our state. The number of operations continues to increase, ranging in size from small enterprises to large integrated systems, including a very robust show pig industry. The swine industry is a major component in the financial impact agriculture has on the Missouri economy, it is essential our producers have an extension swine veterinarian to assist in their health and production needs.

Currently, the University of Missouri (MU) is without a swine veterinarian. This is problematic for two reasons. First, there is not an individual that private practitioners and/or swine producers can contact for advice on swine related issues at MU. Second, there is not a faculty member who has the expertise necessary for teaching swine production and medicine courses at the University of Missouri – College of Veterinary Medicine (MU-CVM) or providing advice on swine cases admitted to the MU-CVM Teaching Hospital or Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. Under the current circumstances, adjunct faculty are used to teach components of swine production and medicine however this limits the overall educational opportunities for veterinary students and does not address the other needs mentioned.

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).

The individual filling this position will serve as a swine extension veterinarian and will fill two important roles. First, they will contribute to teaching in the veterinary curriculum, engage students in learning opportunities in swine production and medicine, and will serve as an interface for swine veterinarians and producers with the MU-CVM Teaching Hospital and Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

Second, they will serve as a member of the Swine Focus Team, an interdisciplinary group of economists, engineers, nutritionists, geneticists and veterinarians who conduct applied research and develop and deliver advanced educational programs and seminars to swine veterinarians, swine producers, and allied industries in Missouri. The team also provides on-site consultation to the commercial swine industry and associated agri-businesses. The team ensures the swine producers of Missouri are equipped to utilize the technology and informed of the methods of adding value to their swine through utilization of records and new husbandry practices to increase their health status. As the veterinary medicine component of the team, this person will be responsible for developing state-wide programs related to swine health and reproduction.

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).

MU has recruited heavily through a variety of resources for an individual for this position. They have placed ads in professional publications, spoken to individual in the swine industry and utilized social media but have not had success filling this position. The limited number of qualified swine veterinarians as well as the robust salaries being offered by private industry has contributed to the difficulties in filling this position. The private practitioners and swine producers continue to express concerns about the lack of a swine extension veterinarian in a state with a robust and growing swine industry.

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 risks to our swine industry if this veterinarian is not retained have been felt during the duration this position has been unfilled. The Porcine Endemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) outbreak left veterinarians, producers, and news media without a swine extension veterinarian to contact for up-to-date and reliable information. As a result, a swine reproductive physiologist from the MU Animal Science Department stepped in to address some of the needs but was limited due to the lack of veterinary training and licensure. The industry has also experienced outbreaks of PRRS but has lacked the guidance to address the incident. The previous swine extension veterinarian would provide valuable observations and solutions without a vested interest in the situation. This led to the eradication of PRRS within the outbreak zone and free status was maintained for a period of time. The producers and the swine extension veterinarian were able to work together and implement a successful voluntary PRRS eradication zone. Similar coordinated responses are required to address current and emerging disease problems in the state such as influenza, Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD) and Seneca Valley virus.

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: Linda Hickam, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Missouri Department of Agriculture

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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.