

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: Lewis and Clark County, Montana
(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): Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Helena, MT 59601
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority High Priority Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

Type I Shortage: Private Practice
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

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: _____

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

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: _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
 Employer: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

Position Title: State Public Health Veterinarian

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

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

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 200 words or less).

The livestock industry in Montana has 3,445,000 food animals (1) spread across 145,545 mi², with significant interstate and international import and export activity. These figures underscore the agricultural, public health, and economic importance of Montana's food animals to the state, region, and nation. A state public health veterinarian in Montana would provide a critical point of contact for animal health agencies, other human health agencies, food animal veterinarians, and producers regarding zoonotic disease control and prevention and food safety issues.

Responding effectively to food safety and zoonotic disease incidents is important to not only protect the health of Montanans, but also to protecting Montana's economic security, the nation's 6th leading producer of beef cattle and breeding sheep. Recent epizootics in Montana including brucellosis, rabies, and Q fever noticeably demonstrated the need for a public health veterinarian in Montana to more effectively develop public health control measures.

Montana is one of only 10 states without a designated Public Health Veterinarian. Critical objectives of the state of Montana for filling this shortage situation is the protection of public health by focusing on the human health implications of zoonotic disease found in livestock and other animals.

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 200 words or less).

The activities of the awardee would include, but not be limited to:

- Coordination of zoonotic and enteric disease surveillance and outbreak response.
- Providing technical expertise for zoonotic disease, biosecurity, and food safety-related issues.
- Response to crisis situations involving zoonotic disease-related public health hazards.
- Serving as primary liaison for Montana DPHHS to the Montana Department of Livestock concerning animal agriculture issues with human health impact.
- Consulting with healthcare providers about zoonotic disease cases, and infection control and personal protective equipment to reduce risk for zoonotic disease infection.
- Teaching and lecturing about zoonotic diseases at Montana's Colleges and Universities and for local public health and healthcare provider groups.
- Conducting original research on zoonotic disease topics including designing and conducting studies, analyzing data, and drafting and editing manuscripts for publication or presentation at national meetings.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Montana salaries, both public and private, are low (45th of the 50 states) and a subject of concern for the retention of any professional position. This position will be a newly created position with Montana DPHHS. Creation of the position has been hindered by lack of funding and recognition of the salary level necessary to recruit and retain a competent and qualified state public health veterinarian. Given the extensive post-DVM training required and increasing education costs, educational debt creates additional financial hardship, which will make retention of this position extremely difficult.

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 250 words or less).

The livestock industry of Montana is threatened by several diseases of regulatory, zoonotic, and economic significance, including brucellosis (Greater Yellowstone Area), rabies, and tuberculosis. The presence of such diseases as West Nile virus, salmonellosis, and avian influenza that have implications for people, domestic animals, and wildlife, highlights the need for the presence of a formal public health position that will participate in surveillance, preparation, and response. Without the necessary infrastructure between animal and human health agencies, an outbreak of a significant zoonotic disease creates

a risk to livestock health, food safety, and human health, and could have serious consequences in statewide, national, and international animal health and biosecurity.

The financial burden of educational debt repayment, cost of living, and a lower than average salary makes retention of this position extremely precarious. Loan repayment assistance would make it easier to attract and retain a qualified state public health veterinarian who would provide service to the food animal industry as well as the public.

(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 on Page 1, 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.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

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: Marty Zaluski, DVM

Title: Montana State Veterinarian

Organization: Montana Department of Livestock

Email: mzaluski@mt.gov

Telephone Number: (406) 444-2043
(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.

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