Shortage ID MT161
VMLRP USE ONLY

NIFA

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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: South Central Region of Montana, to include the following counties: Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass
(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): Joliet, MT 59041
(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:

Must cover(check at least one)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle	☒ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine	☒ Swine
☐ Poultry	☒ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____	☐ 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.

49 %

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 South Central region of Montana meets criteria for Frontier designation, with a population density of 3.4 people per square mile. There is a seven to one ratio of livestock to people covering 10,694 square miles. The area is also home to two Indian reservations, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations. Given these statistics, our program objective is to facilitate community access to the full spectrum of veterinary medical services, and provide regional coverage for State/National surveillance and reporting programs in the region. This is accomplished by increasing the number of rural practice veterinarians. Meeting this objective will improve food safety, animal health and public health, and will help the Nation maintain resiliency to outbreaks of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases.
A supported veterinarian will meet several critical objectives: 1) access to animal health services for livestock and companion animals in the community; 2) early detection of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases affecting livestock and small animals; 3) seamless integration of animal and human health awareness and response throughout the community; and 4) effective local and regional disease surveillance and reporting to support State and National disease monitoring efforts.

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 characteers or less).

The practicing veterinarian will provide comprehensive veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry in a rural setting for large and small animals. Specifically, he/she will perform routine and emergency veterinary services to include: preventive health activities including examinations of animals, vaccine consulting and administration; herd health services; obstetrical services; and emergency services including calving, injuries, or suspected severe disease. Animal and human health will be preserved by providing active and passive surveillance for emerging, zoonotic and foreign animal diseases. The veterinarian will maintain communication with State animal health officials to report disease outbreaks or unusual animal health conditions and stay abreast of developing issues. He/she will fulfill a critical public health role in these medically under served communities through familiarity with the community, knowledge of the region's animal health status, and communication and coordination with local and state public health authorities on incidents of zoonotic disease and public health emergencies. The veterinarian will support state, national and international animal health as a Deputized State veterinarian and USDA-accredited veterinarian regulating intrastate, interstate and international movement of livestock. He may further contribute to food safety through providing professional services to state-licensed slaughter plants, feedlots and livestock markets.

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).

The Montana legislature provides veterinary college access at in-state tuition rates for 9 Montana- resident students annually under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) agreement. The Montana Veterinary Medical Association established a student membership with reduced dues, continuing education, newsletter, and online job locator. Locally, practices support student externships and university mentorship programs, and have advertised for veterinarians in national periodicals. Local communities have attempted to attract new veterinarians through advertisement and providing clinic facilities and housing. These counties were previously included in an unfilled shortage designation with the VMLRP in 2012, 13, and 14.

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).

Three factors contribute to the veterinary shortage for this region: several established practitioners are approaching retirement, a paucity of new veterinarians moving in, and a recent decline in cross-border service from Wyoming veterinarians. The region is characterized by 241,900 food animals spread over 10,694 square miles, feedlots, and slaughter plants. Further, the area includes 3,539 square miles of tribal lands that are systematically underrepresented in the animal health and public health infrastructure and capacity.
An unmitigated shortage situation will negatively impact efficient animal production and animal and human health; and create additional risk to food safety and national and international biosecurity. Continued or worsened shortages will create inability to provide veterinary services for herd health, animal health and veterinary preventive medicine. The loss of professional reproductive and nutritional services will result in decreased herd performance, a disastrous condition for already marginal beef production operations. The ensuing gap in state and national health surveillance precludes the early detection of domestic and foreign animal disease outbreaks, setting the stage for wide dissemination of disease prior to detection; the proximity to an international border with robust import and export activity raises the likelihood of international as well as interstate spread, and creates a greater risk of undetected imported disease. Disease control programs from trichomoniasis to brucellosis, rabies and tuberculosis will lack veterinary capacity. The majority of communities in the region lack health professionals, creating great risk for undetected incursions of zoonotic disease. Big Horn County specifically accounts for nearly twenty percent of the rabies cases in Montana since 2009.

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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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