

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: Central Montana to include the following counties: Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, and Yellowstone
(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): Billings, MT 59101
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

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 Central region of Montana has a population density of 13.4 people per square mile. There is a two to one ratio of livestock to people covering 14,515 square miles. Livestock facilities include two large livestock markets, 4 certified semen service facilities, and multiple feedlots. Given these statistics, our program objective is to facilitate 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 availability of food animal 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 in the community; 2) early detection of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases affecting livestock; 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 characters or less).

The practicing veterinarian will provide comprehensive veterinary medicine for food animals, including herd preventive health and official disease program work. 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 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 deputy state veterinarian and USDA accredited veterinarian regulating intrastate, interstate, and international movement of livestock. He/she 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.

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).

Factors contributing to the veterinary shortage for this region include: several established practitioners are approaching retirement, the recent untimely death of an established practitioner in the area, and a paucity of new food animal veterinarians moving in. The region is characterized by 392,300 food animals spread over 14,515 square miles, feedlots, and slaughter plants. 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. Specifically, this shortage has stretched thin already taxed veterinarians in rural communities as they try to increase practice areas to cover animal health needs in the region. 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, brucellosis, rabies and tuberculosis will lack veterinary capacity.

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

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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.