

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

Coos and Grafton Counties, NH

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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):

Corner of Main St and Mechanic St; Lancaster, NH, 03584

(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: _____ Position Title: _____

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).

NH is near the top in the nation in direct to consumer sales from farms. The number of farms in NH, as measured by USDA NASS, grew 24% between 2002 and 2007. This number grew 5% from 2007 to 2012, bucking the national decrease. One of two food animal-exclusive practices serving northern NH shuttered its doors in the past 3 months. This has left one existing practice to pick up that work since there are no overlapping coverage areas with any other veterinarians. That practice is considering hiring another full time veterinarian. This location is unique inasmuch as it provides veterinary service to food animals in both New Hampshire and Vermont, often crossing the Connecticut River several times in one day. The greatest challenge with this territory is the expanse of geography which creates many hours of driving relative to billable hours on the farm.

Further, NH has only one veterinarian employed by the state to deal with animal health, emergency response, zoonotic disease, food safety, and animal welfare. A veterinarian engaged in private practice here will provide a first line of recognition and defense on these farms for unusual disease occurrences; for zoonotic disease and food safety control; and for animal welfare. Approximately half of the practice radius is in an equally under-served portion Vermont which would substantially expand the opportunities for food animal practice.

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 existing practice shared that currently they provide services to “mostly cattle (dairy and beef) and equine, with a small percentage of small ruminant, swine, camelid”, specifically “routine and emergency services to approximately 843 food animal clients (in VT and NH) ranging from 1 animal to over 1,200 animals.” In NH, they serve 32 commercial dairy farms ranging from 30 cows to >1,200 cows and approximately 375 beef, small ruminant, swine & camelid clients, mostly farms with <20 animals. Currently, this practice spends approximately 90% of its time working with food animals and 10% working with equine. The equine work will increase to about 30% of the workload in the spring months.

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).

For many years, the state of NH had a program that covered the out-of-state cost of attending veterinary college for NH residents. As well, NH began building a tuition reimbursement program for veterinarians who would choose livestock practice in under-served parts of the state. As regulations were being written, a state budget crisis removed any funding in the past few years. In the past, the state also placed ads in veterinary publications soliciting veterinarians to move to the state to practice food animal medicine. Currently, there is no comparable state program.

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).

In 2013, the AVMA reported that the average salary for first-year graduates working in a food animal predominant practice was \$66,660. This would be a very difficult salary to achieve with the amount of driving required in this area, though necessary to cover both average veterinary college debt and other basic living expenses. As such, the VMLRP will be instrumental in attracting and retaining recent graduates who will provide veterinary services for this area. Though a decade ago, the UK offers a good example of what can happen to a similar agriculture model when a disease emergency occurs (i.e. FMD caused a reported loss of more than 25% of farms in the UK and the loss of many of those lands for future use as farm lands). Effective emergency response, animal health management, on-farm food safety control, and animal welfare are directly related not only to the number of animals impacted but to the number of locations where animals are housed. This swift growth without adequate veterinary infrastructure and service could present a great risk to not only local communities, but to the state and the nation depending on the type of event that may occur. Providing veterinary

support to such farms also supports local economies by keeping farmland in use rather than converting it to housing; providing income opportunities to livestock owners; and mitigating zoonotic human health risks on the farm.

(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: Stephen Crawford, DVM

Title: NH state veterinarian

Organization: NH Dept of Agriculture, Markets, and Food
Stephen.crawford@agr.nh.gov

Email: 603.271.2404

Telephone Number: _____
(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.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
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