

# 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](http://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: Merrimack, Belknap, Rockingham, Strafford, Carroll counties  
(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, Canterbury Rd, and Center Rd, Chichester, NH, 03258  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate 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)

- 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).

NH is near the top in the nation in direct to consumer sales from farms. Concurrently, the number of farms in NH, as measured by USDA NASS, grew 24% between 2002 and 2007. Anecdotal evidence and field experience indicate that 24% may be low. 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. As well, this practice area is within a 45 minute drive of more than 30 licensed dairies.

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).

This veterinarian will maintain a typical mixed animal practice in an area with a growing population of livestock and livestock owners in proximity to areas of human population growth. Also, there is an opportunity to provide service to more than 30 licensed dairies within a 45 minute drive. Though geographic distance may be less than 50 miles, travel times in rural NH are often lengthy thus keeping livestock under 80% of the total practice. Regular practice will include routine and emergency care of livestock. This will improve timeliness of detection of unusual disease occurrences and any necessary regulatory response; oversight of animal health problems that impact public health and food safety; and management of animal welfare by providing more immediate care than is currently available in this area.

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).

or many years, the state of NH has had a program that covers the out-of-state cost of attending veterinary college for NH residents. The student pays in-state tuition while the state of NH pays the difference. As well, NH is building a tuition reimbursement program for veterinarians who choose livestock practice in underserved parts of the state. Regulations are being written, though the current state budget precludes any funds from being available. In the past, the state also placed ads in veterinary publications soliciting veterinarians to move to the state to practice large animal medicine. None of these efforts have been fruitful as yet.

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).

Though often overlooked for its food animal populations, NH is among the top states for total direct to consumer sales. This is a rapidly expanding area and opportunity in NH agriculture. The number, though not necessarily the average size, of livestock farms in NH is growing swiftly. The UK offers a recent 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 the supporting 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 animal-origin human health risks on the farm.

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: Steve Crawford

Title: state veterinarian

Organization: NH Dept of Agriculture

Email: stephen.crawford@agr.nh.gov

Telephone Number: 603.271.2404  
(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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.