

# 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: Saint Lawrence, NY  
(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): GPS: 44.595637, -75.169213 Canton, NY 13617  
(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)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: Equine - Please see note in Activities section. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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).

Objectives:

- 1) Improve veterinary resources for a chronically underserved area with significant animal agriculture.
- 2) Create a well-qualified pool of candidates from diverse backgrounds to serve as a private practice veterinarian delivering food animal veterinary service to Saint Lawrence County in New York State.
- 3) Assure that talented students and graduates with aptitude for food animal practice are not prevented from serving due to financial constraints.
- 4) The person meeting this shortage situation will spend a minimum of 30% of their professional effort towards protecting the health of domestic livestock in food production.
- 5) Improve longevity of a new food animal veterinarian in the area by providing an incentive to stay and provide veterinary services.
- 6) Help protect animal health and animal welfare. Increase agricultural animal disease surveillance.

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).

St. Lawrence County is home to approximately 74,470 cattle, 6,489 layer hens, 6,353 broilers, and 1,433 sheep and lambs. Of the 2038 U.S. counties with dairy production in 2012, St. Lawrence ranked 50th for milk production. Growing Amish and Mennonite communities are revitalizing small farms in the region and are highly dependent on horses for transportation and farm work.

A veterinarian working in this county can expect to spend the bulk of her or his food animal professional effort on dairy farms. Dairy is focused in the northwestern half of the county and near the St. Lawrence River, bordering Canada. Farmers in Saint Lawrence County are also showing increased interest in beef and small ruminant production.

We hope the VMLRP will give consideration to the equine population and its needs in this shortage area, since many farms in this county depend on horses for transportation and field work. New York and Quebec are seeing a resurgence of equine infectious anemia and having adequate veterinary coverage will be critical to surveillance for this disease. Saint Lawrence County is one of our counties which historically has had problems with eastern equine encephalitis and also wildlife rabies. Public health will be well-served by an alert large animal veterinarian capable of recognizing these diseases as differential diagnoses.

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).

A multi-doctor practice in neighboring Jefferson County has tried to hire and retain a food animal veterinarian to work in St. Lawrence County. Over the past few years 3 veterinarians have come and gone, each lasting about 1 year.

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).

The county measures 2821 square miles and despite the AVMA veterinary resources report's claim of 11 food animal veterinarians residing in St. Lawrence County, the actual number of active vets is about half that. A multi-doctor practice in neighboring Jefferson County reports that its veterinarians travel 50 - 75 miles at least 3 to 4 days a week to serve farms in St. Lawrence which cannot obtain veterinary service from within the county. The current situation with inadequate veterinary staffing in the county means that farms will lose productive animals when veterinarians cannot respond quickly enough to emergency calls.

Failure to provide for routine herd health needs, while less dramatic than emergency service, may have a greater financial impact on farms in this area. With increased requirements for VFDs, and increased emphasis on residue prevention and judicious antibiotic use, farms will have a greater need for a local veterinarian who is familiar with their operations and needs. The National Milk Producers' Federation F.A.R.M. program requires a sound relationship between the farm and its vet. Most processors and cooperatives in NY are now requiring participation in F.A.R.M., so failure to secure and retain an additional food animal veterinarian could be a hindrance.

A large number of cull cattle and breeding cattle move through livestock markets in Gouverneur and DeKalb Junction. Without adequate private veterinary resources, disease surveillance in the markets will fall entirely upon state and federal government programs.

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: David C. Smith, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian, Director of Division of Animal Industry

Organization: New York State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Email: david.smith@agriculture.ny.gov

Telephone Number: 518-457-3502  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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.