

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 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: An approximately 40 mile radius area around Slayton in southwestern Minnesota encompassing Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Nobles, and Jackson 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): Slayton, MN 56172 (population 2072)

(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).

Filling this shortage is important to support this intensive animal agricultural area of Minnesota. This area has four of the top five counties in Minnesota for cattle on feed, three of the top five for sheep and soybeans, and four of the top ten for hogs (2012 NASS statistics). Veterinary graduates were recently hired in this area and it is important to train and retain food animal veterinary expertise here. A veterinarian with a food animal focus would also be a local source of information and expertise on food animal medicine and related public health issues.

The objectives of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation are to provide a full range of food animal veterinary services. Services include:

- 1) On farm diagnosis and treatment, preventive practices, herd or flock health plans for herd level management to maintain productivity and farm profitability
- 2) Educating producers on biosecurity, disease prevention, nutrition, animal husbandry, and appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals
- 3) Performing regulatory activities or signing regulatory documents needed by local producers, or livestock buyers or sellers at any of three local livestock markets
- 4) A working knowledge of reportable and foreign animal diseases and how to report suspect cases

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).

Activities to meet this shortage situation include providing traditional veterinary services such as: 1) examination, diagnosis, and treatment of sick livestock, 2) reproductive exams, obstetrical procedures, or collecting and storing semen, 3) necropsies and sample collection for diagnostic evaluation, and 4) emergency services during evenings and weekends. The veterinarian must also be accredited in Minnesota to conduct regulatory activities including signing certificates of veterinary inspection, or performing TB testing or brucellosis vaccination of cattle. Additional activities include working with producers to analyze operation records and identify steps needed to improve herd health, reproduction, productivity, and farm profitability. The veterinarian would also participate in the clinic business activities and work together with clinic office personnel. To be successful in this area, the veterinarian would integrate into the community by participating in local service organizations, working with local groups (i.e. 4-H, county fairs) to share their expertise in animal health and public health. They would also promote the veterinary profession participating in state and local veterinary medical associations.

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).

Although practices can recruit new graduates to this area of premier agriculture, retention is a concern due to student loan debt with current starting salaries for food animal practitioners ranging from \$61,000 - \$74,235 (JAVMA 10/1/12, Facts and Figures on 2012 graduates) and a mean debt load of \$188,500 for Minnesota veterinary graduates. One veterinarian retired and three clinics recently hired food animal veterinarians due to improved agricultural economic conditions in the area. The VMLRP nomination would provide an incentive to retain a recent graduate in this area.

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).

Food animal veterinarians are the front line for surveillance of the nation's animal sector food supply essentially performing a public health role. They are the 'first responders' recognizing and reporting animal disease outbreaks in food animals or reporting animal health issues that become emerging disease issues. The number of animals per veterinarian in these counties ranges from one per 39,000 to 132,000 (AVMA, 2006). This area has three livestock markets that move thousands of animals monthly through their sales. The viability of our livestock producers, local economies, and food supply would be adversely affected if we cannot at least maintain a minimum level of veterinary expertise. A decrease in veterinary services could impact the area through: 1) increased disease or reproductive losses resulting in decreased viability for producers, 2)

delays in the recognition of disease allowing spread with greater impact, 3) improper use of pharmaceuticals or biologics by producers which could contaminate food, or 4) movement of sick or non-performing animals into the food supply. The community would also be impacted without these professionals contributing to local agricultural organizations and serving as a source of expertise in animal and public health, zoonotic disease, and animal care. It is critical to continue to support veterinary medicine in this area to ensure the health of our food animals and the agricultural economy.

(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.

Box containing a percentage sign (%).

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

X By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

X 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: William L. Hartmann, DVM MS

Title: Executive Director and State Veterinarian

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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Telephone Number: 651-201-6825
(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.

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