

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 area centered around Zumbrota in southeastern Minnesota including Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, northern Olmsted, northern Dodge and eastern Rice 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): Zumbrota, MN 55992 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: X 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: _____

X 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)

- X Beef Cattle
X Dairy Cattle
X Swine
[] Poultry
X Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
X 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).

The objectives for a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would be to provide veterinary services at least 50% of a full time veterinarian position (20 hrs/week) to include:

- 1) Providing on farm veterinary services for food animals including diagnosis and treatment of food animals, preventive practices such as vaccinations and development of herd health or flock plans, and other routine and emergency veterinary services
- 2) Educating producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, nutrition, animal husbandry, and appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals
- 3) Maintaining a Type 2 veterinary accreditation to provide the accurate regulatory services and documents needed by local producers or livestock buyers and sellers at area livestock markets
- 4) Having a working knowledge of state reportable diseases and foreign animal diseases and know where to report suspected cases and
- 5) Provide other veterinary services as needed.

In addition, this veterinarian would serve as a local resource for information on food animal medicine and related public health issues and provide expertise and advise local groups on these topics including speaking at meetings or events when requested.

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).

This veterinarian would examine, diagnose, and treat livestock on the farm to include surgical and obstetrical procedures. Activities also include: 1) necropsying and collecting samples from carcasses for diagnostic evaluation, 2) implementing comprehensive herd health programs, 3) providing emergency services during evenings and weekends, and 4) providing animal regulatory services including certificates of veterinary inspection, TB testing or brucellosis vaccination of animals. The veterinarian would also participate in the business activities of the clinic and work with clinic office personnel.

Zumbrota (population 3200) is the geographic center with the Twin Cities metropolitan area on the border to the northwest and communities on the Mississippi River including Hastings (pop. 22,100), Red Wing (pop. 16,500), and Lake City (pop. 5000) to the east. Agriculture is a significant contributor to this area's economy. A successful veterinarian would integrate into one or more communities by participating in local service organizations or work with groups (i.e. 4-H, county fairs) to share their expertise in animal health and medicine and public health. This veterinarian would also promote the veterinary profession by 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).

Two vet clinics merged hiring a new graduate recently. Another two clinics hired new graduates with one clinic experiencing turnover in new hires over the last few years. Veterinarian salaries even in moderate agricultural areas can be prohibitive given student loan debt. Minnesota graduates have a mean debt of \$188,000 with starting salaries for mixed or food animal practitioners at \$61- 65,700 (AVMA graduating senior survey data – 2011). The VMLRP provides an additional incentive to retain or attract a recent graduate in an existing practice or allow a recent graduate to establish a new practice 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).

This area of Minnesota is moderately agricultural with significant corn and hay production. Wabasha County ranks fifth in the state for their milk cow population and Goodhue County ranks 6th with a significant breeding sheep and lamb population (NASS 2008 data). Cash receipts in 2008 for livestock and crops totaled \$891 million (2010 NASS data).

Although this area has a lower number of food animals per veterinarian (AVMA data), this area may be able to recruit new veterinarians into practice but may not be able to retain them.

Food animal veterinarians are the first responders in animal disease outbreaks and one of the first to identify health impacts to food animals. With a reduction of veterinary expertise in this agricultural area, the viability of our livestock producers, local economies, and food supply would be adversely affected. A decrease in veterinary services could result in: 1) increased disease or reproductive losses with monetary loss for the producer, 2) delays in the recognition of disease which would allow 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.

50%

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: William L. Hartmann, DVM MS

Title: Executive Director and State Veterinarian

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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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.