

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

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Area bordered by Connecticut River, Thetford, Cabot and Burke to include Caledonia and Orange and the southern third of Essex, VT.
(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): Rygate Corners (latitude 44.208; longitude -72.104)
(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: Camelids and/or cervids

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: camelids

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).

Adequate veterinary coverage for this region will help protect livestock and human health and safety. Specifically, it will help ensure the continued security of the state's food supply by providing service to approximately 56 commercial dairies ranging from 30 head to more than 1,200 milking animals. A veterinarian located in this region would also provide service to approximately 325 hobby farms containing a mix of beef, small ruminants, swine and camelids. An adequate supply of private sector accredited veterinarians is essential since the region borders New Hampshire and interstate movement of livestock occurs frequently. The applicant veterinarian would help to serve as Vermont's eyes, ears, and boots on the ground regarding surveillance for foreign and domestic diseases, emergency preparedness and response, and ultimately, protection of the state's food supply. Retention of this individual will counter the current lack, and expected attrition rate, of food animal veterinarians based adjacent to this coverage area; many are equine-focused and those that are food animal-focused are expected to retire in the next 5 – 10 years. Veterinary retention in this geographic area will also help protect the continued economic viability of Vermont's fluid dairy industry while ensuring that Vermonters have access to a multitude of safe local food products by providing veterinary services to the expanding animal-based food production industry in the region.

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).

Primary activities required of a veterinarian filling this position include dairy herd health consultations; these mostly consist of preventative health consults, disease detection/treatment, nutritional consults, and pregnancy determination. Providing assistance to producers regarding intrastate, interstate, and international movement of all livestock species would also be included in the applicant veterinarian's scope of work, as well as all other duties normally performed by accredited food animal veterinarians. Vermont has a robust local-vore movement and allows for bovine and small ruminant raw milk sales direct to consumers. Additionally, there is a productive small ruminant farmstead cheese industry in the state. As a result, the applicant veterinarian must have the ability to successfully advise clients on pre-harvest animal health decisions that could impact food safety. The applicant must also have excellent diagnostic skills in order to accurately advise clients when food animals should be removed from the production system. In addition to commercial dairy operations, this region is home to numerous hobby farms containing multiple food producing species, including an expanding caprine population, that demand frequent but irregular veterinary service. Activities associated with serving this clientele would include treatment of individual sick animals on a routine and emergency basis and engagement in herd health-related and other activities referenced above.

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).

Vermont State Veterinarians and veterinary faculty at the University of Vermont regularly engage pre-veterinary and veterinary students for purposes of encouraging them to practice in Vermont. Vermont has a state-based veterinary loan repayment program that has offered multiple rounds of monetary awards and this geographic shortage area has not yielded a VMLRP recipient to date. Recruitment/retention efforts made by individual practice owners in this region have been somewhat successful, but the compensation packages that practice owners are able to offer may not be enough to counter the current student loan debt of new or recent graduates.

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).

Vermont ships approximately 85% of its milk out of state. Producers who ship product in a regional or national market must remain compliant with standards developed by NCIMS, including those pertaining to antibiotic administration and extra-label use of other medications. If a food animal veterinarian capable of providing competent pre-harvest care to dairy animals and advice to dairy farmers in this region is not secured and retained, the economic growth and sustainability of dairy agriculture in this sector will be compromised, as could the safety and reputation of Vermont's dairy food supply available to consumers regionally and nationally. Vermont has experienced significant growth in its slaughter and processing facilities in the last five years, and the case-load for these facilities is provided by Vermont producers who depend on private veterinarians to ensure the health and productivity of their livestock and poultry species. Specifically, northeast Vermont contains commercial and hobby producers of all species of livestock, much of which ends up in the food supply. If sufficient veterinary services are not secured for this region of the state, then the health of livestock during the pre-harvest phase will be compromised as will the security of beef, pork and dairy food products. Inadequate numbers of food animal veterinarians in the rural region could also result in foreign and domestic livestock diseases remaining undetected there for unacceptable lengths of time and will continue to put additional burden on farmers to recognize the early signs of disease that could negatively impact animal and human health. This dilemma presents a risk not only to Vermont's livestock industry but also to the industries in states to which these animals and animal products are likely to be shipped.

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: Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Title: Vermont State Veterinarian and Director of Food Safety and Consumer Protection

Organization: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

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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.