

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: Taylor, Marathon, Portage
(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): Wausau, 54401
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

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).

It is very important to maintain a strong food animal veterinary workforce in this region. There are 2,913 registered livestock premises, 919 licensed dairy farms, 4 animal markets, 30 animal truckers and dealers, and 246,000 cattle and calves according to agriculture statistics in 2015. Recent numbers available through the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association indicate that there are 23 veterinarians in this region that are in mixed or food animal practice. It is a high priority to maintain food animal veterinarians to service this livestock industry to assure a safe and wholesome food production system. This veterinarian may deal with interstate movement of livestock which requires accredited veterinarians to examine, identify and issue interstate certificates of veterinary inspection. This is required to meet federal traceability rules and state regulations. These food animal veterinarians also play a critical role in performing regulatory testing for TB and brucellosis, along with being the early detectors of potential foreign animal diseases. Wisconsin also has over 20,000 registered poultry premises. Due to the recent highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in Wisconsin it is critical to have food animal veterinarians available to be the first responders for poultry diseases. Writing veterinary feed directives is also a concern. VMLRP assistance will be vital to recruit and sustain new food animal veterinarians in this 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).

A food animal veterinarian in this region would become an integral member of the community. Their activities would include traditional food animal practice, making farm calls, diagnosing and treating individual animals, performing surgery when necessary but also consulting on the many aspects of food animal production. Wisconsin also has the largest goat dairy industry in the country and it continues to grow statewide. This could include nutritional consultation, biosecurity advice, reproductive work, vaccination strategies and other herd management techniques. Through this work, they will get to know many members of the community and would likely get involved with the youth of the community assisting with 4-H, FFA and livestock exhibitions. This region has a mix of rural areas and urban areas. In the rural areas, this practitioner would also be called upon to perform surgeries, vaccinations and medicine on companion animals to serve the local community. This veterinarian should become active in the local and state veterinary medical associations to further enhance the profession of veterinary medicine. This veterinarian should also become a federally accredited and state certified veterinarian to expand on opportunities to assist with protecting the animal and public health in the state through regulatory veterinary medicine in practice.

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).

Practice owners in this region would like to hire an associate veterinarian, but the debt load new graduates have and the salaries they are requiring, is creating challenges especially with fewer active dairy farms generating routine veterinary business. Business owners would like to transition their practices to new associates, but debt load is making this difficult. This program would also improve the opportunity for new associates to buy practices helping to assure the long term goal of maintaining food animal practitioners in this area. This area listed the fourth most advertisements for food or mixed animal practitioners in the WVMA's newsletter over the past 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).

Wisconsin's livestock industry is estimated to be a 50 Billion dollar industry. This industry is integral to the local economies as well as to the health of the state's economy. The state is free of tuberculosis, brucellosis and pseudorabies. Due to the state's infrastructure including food animal veterinarians, Wisconsin enjoys a strong export market for live animals and semen. Food animal veterinarians are critical to maintain a safe and wholesome food supply. Their efforts with the livestock industry are integral in preventing disease and early detection in the event of a disease outbreak as demonstrated by the recent HPAI outbreak. Food animal veterinarians are a trusted resource in rural communities throughout the state. Livestock producers listen to and value the advice of food animal veterinarians. They also play an important role in educating our youth to develop our next generation of livestock producers. Without the cooperation and assistance of federally accredited and state certified food animal veterinarians, state and federal regulatory agencies could not maintain a safe and wholesome food supply for the public and for our international trading partners. Many emerging diseases are also zoonotic diseases. The veterinary feed directive is a new area of concern in animal and public health. These food animal veterinarians are the early detectors to identify, report and help control these diseases protecting animal and public health.

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: Paul J. McGraw, DVM

Title: Wisconsin State Veterinarian

Organization: Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Email: paul.mcgraw@wisconsin.gov

Telephone Number: 608-224-4884
(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 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.