

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

## Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for 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 position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MN112**

### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: A service area in a 70 mile radius of Thief River Falls encompassing areas of northwestern Beltrami, Clearwater, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau Counties  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

Type I Shortage: Private Practice  
Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)  
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:  
 Beef Cattle  
 Dairy Cattle  
 Swine  
 Poultry  
 Small Ruminant  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area  
Food Animal Medicine (at least 40 percent time)  
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:  
 Beef Cattle  
 Dairy Cattle  
 Swine  
 Poultry  
 Small Ruminant  
 Other : \_\_\_\_\_

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.  
 Food Safety  
 Public Health  
 Epidemiology  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting 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:

- 1) To provide on farm services for food animals at least 40% of a full time veterinarian position (16 hrs./week). Beef cow/calf operations are the primary food animal population in this area and the majority of veterinary demand is typically in the spring and fall processing animals before they go on pasture and after they return. A veterinarian must be able to examine, diagnose, and treat this population of animals as well as provide emergency services as needed.
- 2) Test livestock for bovine TB as this area includes Minnesota's Modified Accredited TB Zone where additional TB testing is performed to meet surveillance and animal movement requirements for livestock.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Provide other veterinary services as needed.

**Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).**

The primary activity of providing on farm veterinary services to food animal producers would require traveling throughout a relatively large rural area centered on Thief River Falls, a town of approximately 8400 people in Pennington County in northwestern Minnesota. The service area could extend in a 70 mile radius around this town including parts of northwestern Beltrami, Clearwater, Kittson, Mahanomen, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau Counties. This veterinarian would need the necessary equipment to examine, diagnose, and treat animals on the farm including the ability to appropriately restrain animals for examination and treatment. This veterinarian would also need to provide emergency services during evenings and weekends to provide food animal clients with the full services they need.

Additional activities would include attending local meetings and events to become known in the community and to get to know the community. These activities would promote the availability of a food animal veterinarian in the area and could be used to educate producers on best farm practices such as on-farm biosecurity to prevent disease.

Secondary activities would include providing small animal, equine, or other veterinary services especially given the seasonality of food animal medicine in this area.

**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).**

Local veterinarians have reported difficulty recruiting and retaining veterinarians in northwestern Minnesota. Given the density of food animals in this area, it would not be able to support a full time food animal practitioner but food animal veterinary attrition over the last 10 -15 years and the changing economy of food animal production has left the area with declining food animal populations and a food animal practitioner shortage. The AVMA identified four of the counties in this area, Beltrami, Kittson, Marshall, and Pennington, with no food animal veterinarians and moderate food animal populations.

**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).**

The risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained is that food animal expertise is not as readily available to these producers. Options for producers needing veterinary services in this area would include: 1)

finding other local sources of advice for assistance with livestock health issues, 2) treating animals themselves with available over the counter or catalog treatments, 3) moving sick or non-performing animals into the food supply to eliminate them from the herd, or 4) paying higher travel costs for a veterinarian willing to travel from a greater distance. All these factors would reduce profitability and likely sustainability for these producers. Treatment without proper diagnosis would impact the animal and inattention to treatment withdrawal times would impact the food supply.

**Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.**

Not applicable at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. William L. Hartmann  
State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the  
Title: Board of Animal Health

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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