

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: NH111

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.

Cheshire, Sullivan, Hillsborough counties

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Corner of River Rd, N and Rte 12, N, Westmoreland, NH, 03467

Location of Position:

(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 30 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).

NH is near the top in the nation in direct to consumer sales from farms. Concurrently, the number of farms in NH, as measured by USDA NASS, grew 24% between 2002 and 2007. Anecdotal evidence and the department's field experience indicate that 24% may be low. NH has only one veterinarian employed by the state to deal with animal health, emergency response, zoonotic disease, food safety, and animal welfare. A veterinarian engaged in private practice here will provide a first line of recognition and defense on these farms for unusual disease occurrences; for zoonotic disease and food safety control; and for animal welfare. As well, this practice area is within a 45 minute drive of more than 20 licensed dairies within NH. Approximately half of the practice radius is in an equally under-served portion Vermont which would substantially expand the opportunities for food animal practice.

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).

This veterinarian will maintain a typical mixed animal practice in an area with a growing population of livestock and livestock owners. Also, there is an opportunity to provide service to more than 20 licensed dairies within a 45 minute drive. Though geographic distance may be less than 50 miles, travel times in rural NH are often lengthy thus keeping livestock under 80% of the total practice. Regular practice will include routine and emergency care of livestock. This will improve timeliness of detection of unusual disease occurrences and any necessary regulatory response; oversight of animal health problems that impact public health and food safety; and management of animal welfare by providing more immediate care than is currently available in this area. Though this application is unique to NH, approximately half of the practice area is in an under-served area of Vermont which will substantially expand the practice opportunities.

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).

For many years, the state of NH has had a program that covers the out-of-state cost of attending veterinary college for NH residents. The student pays resident tuition while the state of NH pays the difference between resident and non-resident rates. As well, NH is building a tuition reimbursement program for veterinarians who choose livestock practice in under-served parts of the state. Regulations are being written, though the current state budget precludes any funds from being available. In the past, the state also placed ads in veterinary publications soliciting veterinarians to move to the state to practice food animal medicine. None of these efforts have been fruitful as yet.

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).

Though often overlooked for its food animal populations, NH is among the top states for total direct to consumer sales. This is a rapidly expanding area and opportunity in NH agriculture. The number, though not necessarily the average size, of livestock farms in NH is growing swiftly. The UK offers a recent example of what can happen to a similar agriculture model when a disease emergency occurs (i.e. FMD caused a reported loss of more than 25% of farms in the UK and the loss of many of those lands for future use as farm lands). Effective emergency response, animal health management, on-farm food safety control, and animal welfare are directly related not only to the number of animals impacted but to the number of locations where animals are housed. This swift growth without the supporting veterinary infrastructure and service could present a great risk to not only local communities, but to the state and the nation depending on the type of event that may occur. Providing veterinary support to such farms also supports local economies by keeping farmland in use rather than converting it to housing; providing income opportunities to livestock owners; and mitigating animal-origin human health risks on the farm.

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.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Stephen K. Crawford, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food

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Email: _____

603-271-2404

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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, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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