



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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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.

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 40 mile radius area centered around St. Cloud in central Minnesota including Morrison, Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright, northern Meeker, southern Mille Lacs, and western Isanti Counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: St. Cloud, MN 56303
(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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Beef Cattle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dairy Cattle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poultry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Small Ruminant
<input type="checkbox"/>	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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef Cattle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dairy Cattle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poultry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Ruminant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other : _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
 Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Food Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiology
<input type="checkbox"/>	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 to provide veterinary services at least 80% of a full time veterinarian position (32 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
- 5) Providing 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 and being located 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 would also include: 1) necropsy and collect samples from livestock carcasses for diagnostic evaluation, 2) implement herd health programs, 3) provide emergency services during evenings and weekends, and 4) provide animal regulatory services including certificates of veterinary inspection, TB testing or brucellosis vaccination of animals. The veterinarian would also participate in the clinic business activities and work together with clinic office personnel.

St. Cloud (population 65,800) is the geographic center of this shortage area and the largest city in the area. St. Cloud is surrounded by agriculture and smaller communities. Agriculture is a significant contributor to the economy in this area. A successful veterinarian would integrate into one or more communities by participating in local service organizations, working with local groups (i.e. 4-H, county fairs) to share their expertise in animal health and medicine and public health. This veterinarian would also work to 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).

The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association newsletter advertised for mixed practice veterinarians for three clinics over the past year. Although practices recruit new graduates, retention is a concern due to student loan debt with current mixed or large animal veterinarian salaries. 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 would provide an additional incentive to retain a recent graduate, attract a new graduate to 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 has three of the top ten counties in Minnesota for milk cows (Stearns, Morrison, and Benton have 108,000 milking cows). These three counties also have high cattle populations (337,500 cattle). There are moderate levels of breeding sheep and lambs here and some of the highest hay production in the state (NASS 2008

/ 2009 data). Although there are low to moderate numbers of food animals per veterinarian (AVMA data), this predominantly dairy area requires fairly intensive veterinary services.

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 shortage of veterinary expertise in this dense 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 allows 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.

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 for this funding cycle.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the

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