

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: Franklin/Oxford Counties

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

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Approximate geographic center of service area: Rumford, Maine 04276

(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 :
_Camelid _____

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 veterinarian will serve a rural farm clientele, caring for a diversified population of dairy, beef, hog, sheep, goat, poultry, camelids and cervids, balancing this with a financially supportive companion animal practice. This veterinarian will provide service over a two county geographical area, with farms widely dispersed over challenging terrain, and will deal with the significant logistical difficulties involved in the long travel times and increasing fuel costs. This veterinarian will serve outside of the five-county dairy belt that benefited from last year's Type 1 (80%) award, but also at least 100 miles from the 2011 Type 2 (30%) nominee, thus complementing these awards well. This nomination will focus on retention of existing practitioners who augment service provided by ageing practitioners currently reducing practice hours or of a veterinarian to replace retirees who had been providing service to these rural areas.

This veterinarian would be expected to assume or acquire the coverage provided now by soon-to-be or now-retired large animal practitioners, or to join regional practices providing farm services to these counties.

The local food movement in Maine is growing at a rapid pace and this is providing an ever-increasing need for veterinary services within these areas, where many of these producers are located.

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 provide medical, surgical, dispensing, and consultation services to diverse small food-animal farms as well as a number of larger operations. The diversity of species and production would include beef, dairy, small ruminants and camelids (milk, meat, fiber), swine, poultry (meat, egg) and cervids.

At least 30% of practice time will be hands-on veterinary services directly related to food animal health and production, food safety, and regulatory compliance. Veterinary services will include health checks, reproductive and nutritional services, disease prevention and control, sick animal exams and treatments, dispensing/sale/advice on appropriate use of medications and guidance on animal welfare to include pain management. This person will also provide services and duties of an accredited veterinarian (CVI's, TB and Brucellosis testing).

Increased veterinary farm visits are expected due to the 2011 adoption of Maine's requirement for licensing of raw milk sellers along with the new Federal regulations requiring all interstate movement of animals to be accompanied by a CVI. This veterinarian will also

assist the State Veterinarian in meeting the educational needs of the individual farmer and the early detection of zoonotic or exotic disease(s) prior to their potential spread into the various livestock auctions, farmer's markets and state agricultural fairs.

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 Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) offers scholarships to veterinary students focusing on food animal practice. Currently this loan is restricted to one Maine veterinary student per year and provides \$25,000/year of loan forgiveness for returning Maine veterinary graduates practicing on livestock in underserved areas. All of Maine's large animal practitioners mentor veterinary and pre-vet students, encouraging them to return to practice in Maine. Community is fostered among large animal vets through biannual veterinary food animal continuing education seminars with academic speakers and local practitioner case reports. Also, recent outreach survey efforts of the VMLRP nomination committee have created improved dialogue and understanding among our food animal veterinarians.

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).

If this Type II shortage for a Category 2 veterinarian is not filled, the state is at risk of being unprepared for food animal emergencies in the shortage areas. The extensive interstate (New Hampshire) and international (Canadian) western borders of Maine (Franklin and Oxford Counties), as well as risks associated with the livestock/wildlife interface throughout the Maine North Woods, create a potential for introduction of foreign animal disease. This veterinarian will extend the effectiveness of Maine's agriculture and public health veterinarian in handling an outbreak such as FMD. National and international food supply issues are affected as any loss/lack of availability of Category 2 federally accredited veterinarians will reduce the capacity for trade and commerce. With Maine's increasingly diverse small farm economy (natural, organic, and raw milk products), the lack of available veterinary care may cause economic losses and animal suffering, increased risk for livestock disease and ineffective treatments, and potential zoonotic risks to public health.

The economic value of Maine's milk, eggs, livestock and poultry products (\$225.1 million) is 36.7% of annual agricultural cash receipts. The number of dairy animals is stable (32,000 approx) and the numbers of hogs, small ruminants and poultry on small farms has increased, and is reflected in increased cash receipts for Other Livestock (NASS 2010 report). Over 8300 small farms are reported in these two counties alone. The Franklin/Oxford area holds five of the State Agricultural Fairs (26 total statewide) as well as the New England Galloway Exposition.

A lack of this veterinary position also impacts the environment, as a veterinarian's knowledge of carcass disposal and anthelmintic and antibiotic use is critical to environmental and human safety.

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: Donald E. Hoenig, VMD

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Maine Department of Agriculture
donald.e.hoenig@maine.gov

Email: 207-287-7615

Telephone Number: _____
(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.

OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013