

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

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Geographic center of service area: Presque Isle 04769
(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 : camelids

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, balancing this with a financially supportive companion animal practice. This veterinarian will provide service over the large geographical area of Aroostook and northern Penobscot Counties, and will deal with the significant logistical difficulties involved in the long travel times and increasing fuel costs, affecting the economic viability of providing this service. This veterinarian will serve outside of the five-county dairy belt that benefited from 2011 type I award and also over 100 miles north of the 2011 type II award, thus complementing these awards well. This nomination will focus on retention of current practitioners or recruitment of a new veterinarian who will maintain service provided by practitioners planning a reduction of hours and to replace two recent retirees who had been providing service to these rural areas. Over the last five years, there has been an influx of Schwartzentruber Amish into this service area and there are projected to be even more coming, significantly increasing the population of food producing animals beyond the capabilities of the remaining local and remote veterinarians currently providing health care. Currently, there are 2.5 food animal veterinarians serving over 8300 head of livestock in this county with a geographic area the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

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 a substantial number of diverse small food-animal farms as well as to larger food animal operations. The diversity of species and production would include beef, dairy, small ruminants and camelids , swine, poultry (meat and egg) and cervids (Red and Fallow Deer).

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, production enhancing protocols, 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 a Category II accredited veterinarian (certificates of veterinary inspection/CVIs, TB and Brucellosis testing). Increased calls for local on-farm veterinary visits are expected due to 2011 adoption of Maine's requirement for licensing of raw milk sellers and expected Federal regulations requiring all interstate movements of animals to be accompanied by CVI. This veterinarian will assist the State Veterinarian in early detection of zoonotic or exotic disease prior to spread into livestock auctions, farmer's markets and 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 loans 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 veterinarians 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 position is not filled, the state is at risk of being unprepared for food animal emergencies in the shortage area. Aroostook County's extensive international (Canadian) border and the risks associated with the livestock/wildlife interface throughout the Maine North Woods, creates 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 by this shortage in Maine as any loss/lack of availability of Category II federally accredited veterinarians will reduce the capacity for trade and commerce- local, interstate and international sales of food animal products, including aquaculture.

The local food movement in Maine communities and the influx of Amish farmers to Aroostook County has driven an increase in non-traditional diverse small farm agriculture, including small dairy operations and backyard animal-raising. Readily available and not cost-prohibitive veterinary care is required and is at risk as the remaining veterinarians serving this area contend with long driving distances, increasing fuel costs and the necessities of covering their small animal practices office hours. The lack of veterinary care may cause economic losses and animal suffering, increased risk for livestock disease and ineffective treatments, and potential zoonotic risks to public health. 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:

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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.

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