



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: An area centered around Spring Valley in southeastern Minnesota including Winona, Houston, Fillmore, Mower, and southern Olmsted Counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Spring Valley, MN 55975
(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 50 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 to provide veterinary services at least 50% of a full time veterinarian position (20 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, and
- 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 farms to include surgical and obstetrical procedures. Activities also include: 1) carcass necropsy and sample collection for diagnostic testing, 2) implementing herd health programs, 3) providing emergency services evenings and weekends, and 4) providing animal regulatory services including certificates of veterinary inspection, TB testing or brucellosis vaccination of animals. The veterinarian would also participate in clinic business activities and work with clinic office personnel.

Spring Valley (population 2500) is the geographic center of this shortage area. Larger communities border this area: Austin to the west and Winona to the east (populations approx. 27,000 each). Rochester is an urban area to the north. The area has a diversity of agriculture; cow/calf and hog production on the Iowa border and dairies on the Wisconsin border. Agriculture is a significant contributor to the economy and a successful veterinarian must integrate into at least one community, participate in local organizations and work 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 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).

Several food animal veterinarians are at or near retirement in multiple person and solo practices. One clinic with two large animal veterinarians closed in the last year. Veterinarian salaries even in highly agricultural areas can be prohibitive given student loan debt. 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 provides an additional incentive to retain or attract a recent 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 of Minnesota is highly agricultural with high corn and soybean production, and significant hay production. The animal population in this area includes 251,700 cattle; 60,000 are dairy cows. Winona County ranks second in the state for milk cow population. Fillmore and Mower County have high hog production with an estimated 430,000 hogs (NASS 2008 / 2009 data).

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 highly 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 would allow 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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