



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: Minnesota - statewide
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position: Minnesota Board of Animal Health, 625 Robert St North, St. Paul, MN 55155
(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: MN Board of Animal Health Position Title: Regulatory Vet
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Animal Health

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 Minnesota Board of Animal Health is a small state agency charged with protection of the health of the state's livestock populations. The objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation include:

1. Work as an educator and Board liaison with livestock producers, stakeholder groups, other state and federal agencies
2. Understand the legislative and rule making processes and participate in writing documents and presenting information associated with these processes
3. Plan and implement a procedure to transfer test results from the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) to the Board's database to better track and record regulatory testing for disease control programs
4. Create tools and methods for livestock dealers to individually identify animals they purchase or sell and record their livestock transactions in order to improve animal traceability in Minnesota
5. Create a system to individually identify slaughter cattle moved from market to a finishing area or from an intermediate slaughter handling facility to slaughter
6. Oversee and manage swine animal health and other Board programs as assigned

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).

The activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation are:

1. Advance animal traceability in Minnesota:
 - a. Work with the MVDL to develop a procedure for transferring data from laboratory submissions associated with regulatory health to the Board's database while assuring data privacy. Electronic integration of these databases will improve the timeliness and accuracy of disease reporting
 - b. Identify livestock dealers and agents operating in Minnesota. Work with them to track and individually identify animals they broker and record their transactions. Implementation of this system will improve our ability to trace animals moved by dealers and decrease the time to find animals during a disease outbreak
 - c. Identify and collect information from feedlots, their owner/operators, and associated veterinarians. Develop electronic methods to capture information from feedlots (ie. inspection reports, veterinarian records and movement data). This improves our ability to trace cattle when needed for disease purposes
2. Be a primary Board contact for the swine industry and manage swine health programs including providing guidance to field staff
3. Maintain and oversee Board activities related to TB Free status
4. Keep current on animal health issues. Work with producers and producer groups to educate them on animal disease programs

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 Board hires veterinarians to respond to disease control and regulatory issues in the state. Recruitment is through the State of Minnesota process. When a vacancy exists, all licensed veterinarians within the state receive notification. An open veterinarian position in the last 6 months resulted in 3 applicants; only one had experience for the livestock species advertised. It is important veterinarians are retained as the complexity of control programs requires training and job experience for effectiveness. Retaining or recruiting highly qualified veterinarians is a challenge given the substantial student debt load of graduates and state salary limitations.

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).

Minnesota is the 7th largest livestock producer in the U.S. and generates \$6 billion for the Minnesota economy. In 2010, Minnesota ranked 1st in the nation for turkey inventory, and 3rd for pigs; 14 million pigs were marketed last year. An efficient and effective animal disease traceability system is vital to maintaining the health of this livestock population. Keeping livestock healthy also translates into a safe and healthy product for consumers within our state and for export to other states/countries. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is an important element in maintaining the health of the farm so the food can make it to the table. The Board is also the watchdog for any disease risk in the state's livestock.

The risk of this position not being secured or retained is that remaining staff will need to oversee more programs while the program development and outreach to enhance disease traceability will be delayed or reduced. Without this forward movement in traceability, the state may be at increased risk of disease introduction and or a delay in controlling the spread of disease in an outbreak situation. An efficient and effective animal disease traceability system is vital to maintaining the health of this livestock population.

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 period

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. William L. Hartmann

Title: State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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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.