

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

**Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to 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 shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site ([www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp)) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

**Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination**

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Meeker and Wright counties, MN  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area  
 (or Location of Position if Type III): Howard Lake MN  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

**Overall Priority of Shortage:** High Priority

**Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :**

Type I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

**For Type I or II Private Practice:**

**Must cover**(check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: Equine, camelids

**For Type III Public Practice:**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked above, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

 %

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 1500 characters).

Over 13,000 registered premises in Minnesota raise poultry. In the proposed shortage area, there are almost 1,500 premises including six layer operations. Supporting a food animal veterinarian in this area is essential for continued health and growth of Minnesota's poultry industry. The primary objective for a veterinarian filling this shortage is to provide veterinary care for 1.4 million laying hens and more than 350,000 replacement pullets owned by a commercial table egg layer. Objectives include evaluating husbandry, nutrition and management techniques and proposing and implementing changes to protect and improve flock health.

Relationships between veterinarians, poultry producers and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) proved to be instrumental in detecting disease and minimizing spread during the 2015 avian influenza outbreak. A poultry veterinarian serving in this shortage situation is well poised to work cooperatively with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory to ensure early detection, control, and eradication of any future occurrences of widespread avian disease.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 1500 characters or less).

A veterinarian meeting this shortage situation routinely works with producers to improve management policies and practices to ensure flock health. Activities include performing examinations, administering vaccines, interpreting diagnostic tests, monitoring morbidity and mortality events, performing necropsies and accessing nutritional and welfare requirements. The veterinarian advises managers and producers on flock treatment plans and the appropriate utilization of pharmaceuticals as dictated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Veterinary Feed Directive.

Responsibilities include working with the integrator's biosecurity coordinator to develop an auditable plan that meets National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) standards and minimizes the potential for introduction of disease, including diseases of great impact, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The veterinarian also ensures that poultry and poultry products are moved legally and safely and ensures compliance with state and federal disease surveillance programs. As a representative of the poultry industry, the veterinarian may be asked to participate in statewide discussions concerning avian health surveillance, disease response and research.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

Minnesota's integrated poultry companies continue to experience difficulty hiring and retaining qualified veterinarians. Historically this integrator has utilized the services of large animal practitioners in the area, but recognizes the benefits of hiring a dedicated staff veterinarian, namely species specific knowledge and skill set, and a decreased biosecurity risk. The veterinarian in this position advocates full-time for the health and welfare of the birds under their care. A Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Plan (MLRP) award will incentivize a skilled poultry veterinarian to continue practice in this rural 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 2000 characters or less).

The occurrence of HPAI in the Midwest in 2015 emphasized the need for veterinary expertise in our poultry sector. Veterinarians play an integral role in poultry production systems and are critical in disease prevention, treatment, surveillance, recognition and reporting. Failure to detect and respond to avian diseases expediently will have significant economic ramifications for the industry.

Minnesota is currently one of the top ten egg producing states and nationwide per capita egg consumption continues to grow (National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), October 2017). Consumers depend on egg farmers to maintain healthy flocks and produce wholesome and safe food. Additionally, poultry and poultry products are traded internationally. Experienced poultry veterinarians serve as a resource when developing industry standards for poultry suppliers and provide education to consumers. Failure to retain adequate veterinary staff in this area could impact animal and human health, not only locally but nationally.

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Beth S. Thompson, JD, DVM

Title: Executive Director, State Veterinarian

Organization: Board of Animal Health

Email: Beth.Thompson@state.mn.us

Telephone Number: 651-201-6844  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 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, OGF, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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