

# 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: State of Missouri  
(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): Columbia, MO 65102  
(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 III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

#### 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: University of Missouri Position Title: Assistant Professor

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Food Supply Medicine

(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).

The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at the University of Missouri (MU) is the only veterinary college in the state. Among its educational and research missions are the training of future veterinary practitioners to service rural areas in Missouri and also performing basic/applied research that advances livestock health and productivity in the state. In recent years the food animal faculty has experienced significant turnover. Hence, there is a need to recruit/retain quality individuals to staff the food animal faculty so that the College can adequately accomplish its missions and maintain an education and research program that benefits rural Missouri and beyond. Faculty recruitment and retention is further hindered by escalating student debt and more attractive opportunities in the private sector, particularly in practice areas outside of academic food supply medicine. Hence, having a veterinary shortage area located at the University of Missouri for a tenure track food supply faculty member with advanced (post-DVM) training would help MU recruit/retain a young faculty member by helping defer some of the financial burden associated with their education. A tenure track position is desired because currently there is a paucity of faculty members at the MU CVM that conduct basic and applied livestock health research as well as teach. A tenure track individual engaged in teaching, research, and service would not only serve the local community, but the state and nation.

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).

As a faculty member at the University of Missouri, this individual will contribute to teaching veterinary professional students, conducting basic and applied livestock health research, and providing clinical service to livestock owners both locally and, through extension/outreach activities and work with referring veterinarians, throughout the state. Hence, the impact of this individual goes beyond that of the typical veterinary practitioner in that this individual will contribute to the education of future rural practitioners, future livestock health veterinary researchers and provide meaningful new knowledge to the state's livestock sector through basic and applied research and delivery of knowledge gained via extension and outreach activities.

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).

Over the last 5 years MU has had multiple open positions in the food supply medicine area. Recruitment efforts have focused on national searches for both tenure and non-tenure track individuals. While the food supply faculty has managed to recruit/retain several non-tenure track faculty, recruitment/retention of tenure track faculty has been more challenging. Two tenure track faculty have taken more lucrative positions at other institutions in the last 5 years. The shortage area requested here is aimed at helping retain a recently recruited tenure track Assistant Professor by aiding with the individual's educational indebtedness.

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).

With diminishing numbers of faculty members in College's of Veterinary Medicine that focus on basic and applied animal health research as well as teach future veterinary practitioners and future veterinary researchers there is a need creatively recruit and retain individuals who can contribute to both the educational and livestock health research missions within the state. This request is aimed at retaining a quality young faculty member who will service these missions. Protecting the state and nation's food supply requires a network of well-trained veterinary practitioners who can recognize disease and understand the broader implications of livestock health interventions on animal, human, and environmental health. Hence, recruiting/retaining faculty who understand these interactions and convey these messages to future rural veterinary practitioners through teaching in the undergraduate, professional, and graduate curriculum as well as conducting basic and applied livestock health research and delivering the results to livestock producers in the state and nation is incredibly important. The risks of not retaining such a faculty member means that new knowledge on livestock health pertinent to the community, state, region, and potentially the nation will not be generated in a timely fashion and veterinary graduates will not possess a well-rounded perspective on their role in One Health.

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: Linda Hickam, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Missouri Department of Agriculture

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(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.