

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) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Kiowa County and the eastern half of Greer County, Oklahoma
Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Junction of South Broadway Avenue and West 11th Street in Hobart, Oklahoma 73651

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority X High Priority Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

Type I Shortage: Private Practice Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

- 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

X Type II Shortage: Private Practice - Rural Area Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

- Must cover (check at least one): X Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, X Swine, Poultry, X Small Ruminant, Other
May cover: Beef Cattle, X Dairy Cattle, Swine, X Poultry, Small Ruminant, X Other: Farmed Cervidae

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: Position Title:
Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas: Food Safety, Public Health, Epidemiology, Other

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 200 words or less).

This is a very rural area in the southwest portion of Oklahoma. Approximately 14,000 people reside in the area, and the largest town, Hobart, has a population of 3,700. There are approximately 750 farms and ranches in the area and 67,000 cattle and 1,000 sheep and goats populate those premises. There is a lot of permanent pasture, but there is also a lot of wheat grown, which provides winter grazing for thousands of head of stocker calves yearly. It is 60 miles to Lawton, which has 100,000 people, and 120 miles to Oklahoma City for shopping, entertainment, etc. 4-H and FFA are important organizations in the area, so he/she must be willing to work with the students and adults involved in those programs. The veterinarian who receives this grant must devote at least 50% of his/her time to food animal practice.

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 200 words or less).

A successful practitioner here must be willing to work hard, be available for emergency cases when necessary, get involved in the community to build a reputation within the area, and be willing to assist the residents of the area with all their livestock and companion animals. This area is similar to the area I practiced in, and while the work is hard and a veterinarian cannot expect to get rich, it can be a wonderful place to raise a family and practice. In the winter there is a lot of wheat pasture grazing of stocker cattle, so the practitioner must understand that business and the diseases and conditions specific to it. There are a lot of beef breeding operations, so the practitioner must be adept at reproductive work. Show swine is an important industry here and goats are increasing in number, so the practitioner must be able and willing to provide services to those clients.

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).

There are three solo practitioners in this area, and two are contemplating retirement. Coverage is adequate, but if one or both of the older practitioners retire the area will be underserved. One practice had a partner leave 10 years ago and no efforts were made to replace him. The two older practitioners are now trying to find young veterinarians to come into the practices to provide services to their clients in the future. This is an excellent opportunity for the right young veterinarian to come into an established practice and be mentored by a good practitioner.

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).

US Highway 183 is a major north/south highway that livestock move on. Stocker cattle come into the area for wheat pasture grazing from many southeastern states. This makes the potential for introduction of a foreign animal or highly contagious livestock disease a good possibility. It is very important that we have veterinarians who devote a good part of their practice to food animals and are familiar with the symptoms of foreign animal and zoonotic diseases in rural areas. Once the producers get to know the veterinarian they are more apt to report unusual cases in their livestock, which in turn is reported to regulatory officials. This may allow us to stop a foreign animal disease or highly contagious disease outbreak much sooner than if that veterinarian were not practicing in the area. Without sufficient veterinary presence in the area, the livestock population is at risk, which could have a serious detrimental impact on animals' lives, but also on the economy of the area, as well as the state of Oklahoma and the United States as a whole.

(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 on Page 1, 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.

50 %

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

- Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week
- Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week
- Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

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: Rod Hall, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food &

Organization: Forestry

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Telephone Number: 405-522-0270
(Area code required)

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, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.