

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: Grant County, Oklahoma
Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Junction of US Highways 60 and 81 in Pond Creek, Oklahoma 73766

Overall Priority of Shortage: [ ] Moderate Priority [ ] High Priority X 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 area is in north central Oklahoma and borders Kansas. This area has a lot of wheat farming, which provides seasonal grazing for thousands of stocker calves from all over the southern United States as well as Mexico. The population of the county is 4500, with the two largest towns being Medford with 1000 and Pond Creek with 850. Agriculture is by far the largest contributor to the economy. The veterinarian who practices here will have to enjoy open spaces and dealing with farm families. There is only one veterinary clinic in this county. The veterinarian is an important part of the county and his/her success will in part depend on fitting into the fabric of the county. Enid, OK with 50,000 people is 25 miles away, and Wichita, KS and Oklahoma City are 90 and 120 miles away respectively if the veterinarian wants to get away for more shopping or varied entertainment possibilities than are available locally. The successful applicant for this area must devote at least 60% 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).

Grant County has 37,000 cattle and 2100 sheep. During the wheat grazing season there are thousands more stocker calves present and the practitioner must be able to assist the producers in proper care and management of this class of cattle. There are a number of swine producers that breed and sell show pigs, and working with these producers and the 4-H and FFA students who show livestock is important. Goats are increasing in number, and along with the sheep will add variety to the practice. I am nominating Grant County for this position, but the reality is the practitioner in the county will also serve clients in parts of the surrounding counties as well with the total clients numbering 500 or so. The successful practitioner in this area will not only have to do food animal work, but will be responsible to provide veterinary care for equine and companion animal clients. It is important to have local food animal practitioners so that farmers and ranchers are familiar with them and comfortable calling them if something unusual is occurring with their livestock.

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 current practitioner in this county is 78 years old and is ready to retire. It is critical that a veterinarian is found to provide service for food animal clients. The practitioner who is retiring was held up to my class in veterinary school as a model food animal practitioner. Since I became State Veterinarian he has talked to me several times about trying to find someone to take his place. There are older practitioners in most surrounding counties who can provide mentoring to a new 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).

Many stocker calves come to this area from many states for grazing, and they leave the area to go to feedlots in other states. It is very important to have veterinarians familiar with food animals and the routine diseases and conditions that affect food animals. Those food animal practitioners will develop relationships with their clients and will be more apt to be called when a producer sees an unusual symptom in one of his/her livestock. Having practitioners to recognize potential foreign animal or highly contagious diseases and report them to regulatory authorities is critical stamping out those diseases before they can wreak havoc on the health of the livestock and the economy of the local area, state, and the nation.

(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.

60%

**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

Organization: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry

Email: Rod.Hall@ag.ok.gov

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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.