

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: Woods and Alfalfa Counties, Oklahoma
Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Junction of US Highways 64 and 281 on the east edge of Alva, Oklahoma 73717

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).

I practiced here my first year out of veterinary school, so I am familiar with the area and its needs. It is an area of larger farms/ranches, and most have been in the family for many years. 14,500 people live in the area, and Alva is the largest town with 5,000 residents. In areas such as this, the veterinarian is one of the most educated people in town and automatically has a position of authority. To be successful, a veterinarian practicing here should embrace and humbly accept that position and plan to give back to the community in exchange for the ability to make a living and raise a family in the area. Wichita, KS and Oklahoma City are 2 hours away for additional shopping and entertainment. The Rocky Mountains are 7 hours away for recreational experiences. The objective of filling this position is to ensure that a practitioner is in place to provide critical food animal services (particularly cattle) to the livestock and producers in the area. The person who receives this grant must spend at least 60% of the time in 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).

This is big farming/ranching country and a big part of the practice is wheat pasture grazing cattle in the winter months. There are a number of breeding cattle herds, as well as feedlots. Cattle total 145,000 head, there are about 600 swine, and there are close to 2,000 sheep and goats in the area. There is a 4 year college that has a swine herd, cattle herd, and a rodeo team that provides potential business. No large cities are close enough to refer emergency cases to, so the veterinarian who practices in this area must accept the responsibility of caring for his/her patients after hours when needed. It's doubtful that a veterinarian can be successful doing only food animal practice here, so this person may be seeing small animal cases early, doing reproductive work during the middle of the day, treating a lame rodeo horse in the afternoon, and overseeing his team processing stocker cattle while doing small animal surgeries later in the day. It is important to the United States to have a veterinarian in this area that is trusted by the population, who will act as a sentry against foreign animal and highly contagious diseases.

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).

One practice (the practice I was in during 1977-1978) had two practitioners from its founding in 1972 until the founding partner retired in 2008. One associate was hired in 2011, but it did not work out and the position has been vacant for the past two years. The current owner has been in the practice since graduation in 1980 and sole owner since 2008. He is 60 years old and would like to expand the companion animal part of the practice. This is a great opportunity for a young veterinarian to move into an established practice with a good mentor.

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 and slaughter facilities in other states. The absence of a food animal veterinarian who has good relationships with the producers of the area would make it less likely for a highly contagious disease to be recognized and stopped before it could cause serious possible death loss and economic loss. With more evidence being found of the interaction of animal and human health it is very important to have veterinarians who are knowledgeable about public health and who can and will work with human and wildlife officials to form a barrier to protect humans and animals from zoonotic diseases.

(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.