

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: Harper County and the western third of Woods County, Oklahoma
(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): Intersection of US Highway 183 and 64, Buffalo, 73834
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority 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: _____

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)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

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 situated at the mouth of the panhandle and is an important livestock area. Harper County ranks 10th in number of cattle in Oklahoma. In addition to a large breeding cow population, there are thousands of stocker calves from all over the United States and Mexico grazed here on wheat pasture in the winter and spring. The county population is 3,685 people, with the County Seat of Buffalo having 1,200 of those. There are three veterinary clinics in the county, but only one is significantly involved in food animal practice. One of the food animal veterinarians is approaching 70 years of age and another is close to 60. They are both contemplating reducing the amount of food animal practice they do and this will create a need for a veterinarian to fill the void. This is a good situation for a young veterinarian to come in to. He/she will have the availability of good mentors, as well as a client base that is already used to utilizing veterinarians in their livestock businesses. The veterinarian will have to be licensed in Kansas as well since the practice area reaches into two Kansas counties just north of the state line.

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).

To simplify the nomination, I am nominating Harper County and part of Woods County. In reality, the veterinarians cover areas in three other adjoining Oklahoma and two other adjoining Kansas counties. The practice area has over 1,000 farms and ranches. It is home to over 325,000 head of cattle, over 100,000 pigs, and over 1,000 sheep and goats in the practice area. The successful applicant for this position must be willing and able to interact with multi-generational family farms. He/she must become part of the community and become involved in activities there. One of the older practitioners in the area has developed a good consultation practice and this applicant must be willing and able to take on those clients and build on it. Most of the work will be cow/ calf and stocker calf work, with some feedyard, show goats, and swine work.

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 young practitioner was hired a year ago, but left for a larger town. The practitioners in the area have been stable for a number of years, but several of them are nearing the point in their careers where they are considering retiring or slowing down. This is a great time for a new, younger practitioner to work into the area under the mentorship of the older practitioners.

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 and Mexico 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 to 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.

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

Organization: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & 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.