

# 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: Southern half of Kiowa County, northern half of Tillman County, western half of Comanche County, eastern half of Jackson 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): Junction of US Highways 62 and 183, Snyder, OK 73566  
(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 II: Private Practice - Rural Area, Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30% FTE or 12hr/week)

**For Type I or II Private Practice:**

**Must cover**(check at least one)

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

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: Exotic Animals, Companion Animals

**For Type III Public Practice:**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(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.

50 %

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 center of this area is 20 to 40 miles from any other veterinarian. The practice in Snyder, OK was established in the late 1960s and has served the area well, first with two to three veterinarians and more recently with a solo practitioner. This practitioner is in his mid 70s and is anticipating retirement in the next few years. I believe that if this area is not supplied with a person who does food animal practice there will be a definite shortage to the many food animal producers that make their living here. This part of Oklahoma is home to many cow/ calf operations, and many thousands of stocker cattle are grazed here on the abundant wheat pasture in the winter and spring. 198,000 cattle are in the area parts of the year, with about 34,000 beef cows there year around. The topography and weather lend itself to small ruminant production and the numbers of sheep and goats are about 2,500 and increasing. There are many show swine producers in this area. Snyder, OK has a population of approximately 1,500 people with another 6,500 in a 20 mile radius. This area offers excellent outdoor activities for a young person and the amenities of larger cities are available in Lawton (100,000 people 30 miles away) and Oklahoma City 100 miles up the H. E. Bailey Turnpike.

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).

A young practitioner intent on becoming established in this area must get involved in the community. Small towns like this tend to be somewhat cliquish, but a veterinarian who works hard, is interested in the community and the people, who works with community organizations and youth organizations such as 4-H and FFA will become a valuable commodity very quickly. This practitioner must be willing to make mobile calls and will need to take emergency calls to help establish his/her practice. Cow/calf and stocker cattle practice will take up most of the time, but small ruminant and show swine work will also be significant parts of the practice. Equine and companion animal work will fill the time when the food animal practice is not real busy. It will take a well rounded individual to be successful here.

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).

There are six veterinarians whose practices are located within 30 miles of this location, but only two of them do predominantly food animal work. With large military bases in Lawton to the east and Altus to the west there are a large number of companion animals, so most of the practitioners focus on them. At one time the practice in this area employed three full time veterinarians, but two of them left for varying reasons. Attempts to hire associates have not been successful. The solo practitioner in this area is in his mid 70s and if he is not able to get a young practitioner recruited and trained to take over the practice it is possible the area could lose the services of a food animal 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 2000 characters or less).

In my opinion there are two things that make this area a higher risk than many others for the incursion of foreign animal diseases or highly contagious diseases. Many thousands of cattle move in and out of this area every fall, winter, and spring to graze on the wheat pasture. These cattle come from the southeastern United States, Texas, and Mexico. Diseases can be easily transmitted via these cattle. The second thing that is scary about this area are the two military bases within 30 miles. Military personnel come and go from all over the world to these bases and it would be easy for someone to accidentally or intentionally bring a foreign animal disease to the area. It is very important that we have food animal practitioners embedded in areas like this to be our first line of defense against these diseases.

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

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.