

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
(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 South Broadway Avenue and West 11th Street, Hobart, OK 73651
(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: 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).

This is a very rural area in southwest 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 year round. There is a lot of permanent pasture, but wheat is a very large part of the farming operations and several thousands of stocker cattle graze here in the winter and early spring. As in all of Oklahoma, and I suspect the U.S., a higher percentage of the cattle are owned and managed by a smaller percentage of ranchers. But more and more people are moving to smaller acreages in the country and purchasing a few cattle or small ruminants. Many of these people have no experience in food animal production so it is essential that we have food animal practitioners to assist and educate these smaller producers. This area is 60 miles from Lawton which has 100,000 people and 120 miles from Oklahoma City for easy access to shopping, dining, etc. 4-H and FFA are important organizations in the area so the successful applicant 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 1500 characters 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 one 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 to 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. Most of the farms and ranches in this area have been owned by the same families for generations, so it can be a bit difficult to become embedded in the community. A veterinarian is automatically one of the more educated and influential professionals in the community when he/she moves in, so with good people skills a new practitioner can become an integral part of the community in a short time. This makes the experience more rewarding for the veterinarian and the community.

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 two practices in the area and each practice has two veterinarians. The owner of the longest established practice is over 65 years old and is contemplating retirement. If that practice is unable to retain a veterinarian to practice food animal medicine there will be a definite shortage in the area. The associate in one practice left about 10 years ago for other opportunities. Both practices currently have young associates who by all accounts are doing a good job in their roles. I believe this is an almost ideal situation for the VMLRP since there are young associates already in place and they have the ability to work with and be mentored by established 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 2000 characters or less).

US Highway 183 is a major north/south highway that livestock moves on. Stocker cattle come into the area for wheat pasture grazing from many southeastern states as well as Mexico. This increases the risk of the introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease or a highly contagious livestock disease. 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 will allow us to stop a foreign animal disease or highly contagious disease outbreak much sooner than if a food animal 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.

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

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(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.