



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
 US Department of Agriculture
 Form NIFA 2009-0001
 OMB Control No. 0524-0046
 Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

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: Oklahoma 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): 2800 N Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Must cover(check at least one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p>May cover</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|---|--|

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry Position Title: Emergency Management, Disease Traceability Director

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Emergency Management, Pet Sheltering

(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.

80 %

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).

A veterinarian meeting this shortage situation will fill a critical need for a person to direct and manage Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry's Livestock and Companion Animal Emergency Management, Public Health, and Animal Disease Traceability programs. ODAFF is the agency in Oklahoma designated as being responsible for managing emergency events when the local jurisdiction is unable to meet the needs of pet sheltering, evacuation, carcass disposal, or other needs related to natural or man made disasters that affect companion animals and livestock. The State Veterinarian's office is responsible for monitoring and working to improve our Animal Disease Traceability to conform with federal standards and to ensure our trading partners and consumers that in the event of a food contamination or Foreign Animal Disease issue we can find the source of the problem and contain it quickly. It is imperative that this position be filled by a veterinarian who is familiar with the way livestock move and are handled, the emergency management infrastructure and processes in Oklahoma, and zoonotic diseases of public health importance. The person must work cooperatively with veterinary practitioners, public health officials, emergency management officials, and the livestock industry of Oklahoma.

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).

The veterinarian filling this position will be classified as a staff veterinarian supervised by the State Veterinarian, and will office in the Agriculture Building in Oklahoma City. Approximately 45% of the time will be spent on Animal Disease Traceability programs, 45% will be spent on Emergency Management and Public Health programs, with the remainder divided between general regulatory work dealing with industry and veterinary practitioners as well as other miscellaneous programs. He/she will meet with and develop relationships with local, regional, and state emergency management individuals and groups. From these relationships County Animal Response Teams will be encouraged to form to partner with ODAFF in times of emergencies. Outreach about zoonotic diseases will be performed and potential Foreign Animal Disease cases will be investigated. This person will supervise two administrative assistants and four data entry personnel to achieve the most efficient use of their time to enter as much data as possible into an electronic database to increase our ability to rapidly and accurately trace the movement of livestock in case of a foreign animal or highly contagious or zoonotic disease event. He/she will also be responsible for developing Traceability Work Plans and Road Maps and keeping and submitting statistics to satisfy USDA Cooperative Agreement policies. These agreements give us funds to fund positions and software to more efficiently keep the necessary data.

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).

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture's budget has endured budget cuts for several years and has been unable to increase salaries to match private practitioners' salaries. We can identify veterinarians who want to be involved in the important work we are charged with, but it is difficult to retain them. In the past six years three young DVMs left my division for higher paying jobs. It is of the utmost importance that we be able to recruit and keep good regulatory animal health professionals. The Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program can be an incentive to a talented veterinarian to accept or continue in a position at a lower salary than he/she would receive in the private sector until I am able to secure raises to be more competitive.

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).

The risk is simple and vital. Our mission is the protection of the health of the herd and flock of the state of Oklahoma and thereby the protection of the health of the herd and flock of the U.S. The risk is the loss of marketability of the food and fiber production within our state and the U.S. We are working to improve our ability to trace animals and animal movements which will help to stop the spread of foreign animal, highly infectious, or zoonotic diseases. It is imperative that we have a veterinarian who understands the livestock industry and the ways animals move within Oklahoma and the U.S. I have an understanding of those processes, but I do not have the time or the technical ability to understand the databases we utilize to store the data we collect. The person we hire must have the compassion for all animals to deal with emergency management personnel, companion animal shelters and rescues, and livestock groups to pull those diverse people into local response teams that are our partners in caring for animals in disaster or emergency situations. Without the right person in this position our ability to respond quickly, efficiently, and thoroughly will be hampered. If we cannot respond properly it could have devastating effects to the economic, physical, and mental health of our citizens. The inability to respond properly will also result in higher rates of illness and loss of life to our companion animal and livestock populations.

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