

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: southern half of Lincoln County, northern half of Pottawatomie County, western half of Okfuskee County, and western half of Seminole 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 177, Prague, OK 74864
(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 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 area includes parts of 4 counties with a combined population of approximately 200,000. The shortage area is centered at Prague. There are approximately 3,100 farms and ranches in with a total of 38,000 cattle on them. There are approximately 5,500 swine in the area. The majority are in a few commercial sow farms, but there are a number of show swine producers with anywhere from 4 to 30 sows. There are a number of sheep and goat farms also. About 15 miles west of Prague, the acreages tend to be smaller due to people who work in the Oklahoma City metro area. To the east the land is much more rural and the farms and ranches get larger. Oklahoma City is about 45 miles away and provides easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment of the large, modern city. Tulsa is 80 miles to the northeast for a different large city. This area offers a fairly unique opportunity for a younger practitioner. He/she can work in a large/mixed animal practice area in a rural setting but still have the amenities offered by a large city.

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 successful practitioner should embrace the community, be willing to work hard, build a reputation, be available for emergency cases as necessary, and make this area home. He/she must be truly be a mixed animal practitioner. The majority of the food animal practice will be beef cow/calf. There are a few small dairies in the area, and there is significant commercial and show swine production. There are several sheep flocks here and the number of goats continues to increase. A veterinarian must be adept and working on all these species and must be able to talk the industry and work with the producers in each of these livestock areas. Farming and ranching in this area goes back several generations and many families take youth activities such as 4-H and FFA very seriously, so the successful veterinarians must work with and assist the students, parents, and instructors who make up those programs.

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).

Oklfuskee County has one veterinarian nearing 80 years of age who is unable to practice the way he did several years ago and is anticipating retirement. Seminole County had a food animal practice that sold and was converted to a small animal practice. Lincoln County once had four predominately food animal veterinarians. One has died and another closed the doors without replacement. A third practice is approximately 35% food animal. Two new practices have opened in Lincoln County but are working mainly on small animal and hobby farms, and are limited in production agriculture availability and knowledge. The potential for a young veterinarian to work into a practice in this area with good mentoring is very good.

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 of not having adequate food animal practitioners in this area is the same as for several other areas that are being nominated as food animal shortage areas in Oklahoma this year. The area has a very diverse agriculture and livestock industry. There are some large ranches and there are many small acreages with herds of livestock in the 10 head to 40 head range. If the area does not have a food animal practitioner the producers know and trust it is more likely that a foreign animal or highly contagious disease may go unreported and will be much more costly to control. Interstate 40 is just to the south and many of the cattle that move from eastern and southeastern states travel through here on the way to and from Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City, which is the worlds largest stocker and feeder cattle market. Any disease affecting the nation's beef herds will potentially travel through this area. Introduction of foreign animal diseases or highly contagious diseases are always a possibility. Food animal veterinarians need to be familiar with these diseases and have a good relationship with producers, cultivating trust and making them aware of risk as warranted. It is very important that we have veterinarians that devote much of their lives to food production agriculture in these rural areas as sentries for foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. The trust they earn within a community is immeasurable in the early communication with producers for risk reduction, for index cases in the area and for communication about prevention and surveillance.

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.