

# 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: Pontotoc County and the northern half of Johnston 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 Highway 377 and State Highway 3, Ada, OK 74820  
(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 I: Private practice, Food animal medicine (awardee obligation: 80% FTE or 32hr/wk)

**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

**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.

%

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).

There are approximately 60,000 head of cattle with 32,000 cows in this area. It is mostly cow/calf country, but there are several smaller dairies and some stocker and backgrounding operations. There are a few commercial sow farms and numerous show swine operations. There are approximately 1,700 sheep and goats are increasing in number in the area. The area is home to 43,000 people and the largest city is Ada with about 17,000 citizens. There are approximately 1,350 farms and ranches in the area, and agricultural sales (mostly livestock) is the number one industry. One of the larger livestock auction markets in Oklahoma is in Ada and cattle travel to and from this market from several other states and to several other states. With the amount and diversity of livestock production in the area it is very important that a sufficient number of food animal practitioners are available to meet the needs of the industry. This area is close to several lakes and outdoor areas so there are many opportunities for outdoor activities. Ada has a four year university so there are entertainment and educational opportunities there. For more extensive shopping, dining, and entertainment possibilities Oklahoma City is a short 80 mile drive.

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).

This area has had some excellent food animal veterinarians in the past. My mentor started one of the practices in Ada in the early 1950s. Livestock producers here have come to expect good, attentive veterinary care. A successful food animal veterinarian here must have a good understanding of beef cow/calf, stocker, and backgrounding practices, the dairy business, the show swine business, and the small ruminant business and be able to talk to producers about their business and assist them in managing their herd health issues and treating their individual animals. He/she must become involved in the community as this will help gain the trust of and get his/her name in front of the potential clients. As in all rural Oklahoma areas, youth activities such as 4-H and FFA are very popular so the veterinarian should work with these groups closely.

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).

The veterinarian who did the majority of the food animal practice in the area accepted employment with Oklahoma State University Extension two years ago. Another practitioner who did some food animal practice is over 71 years old and is doing less food animal practice. There are three other veterinarians who devote some of their time to food animal practice, but two of them do not devote the majority of time to it. The one practitioner who spends most of his time working on food animals is a young practitioner who by all accounts is doing well and gaining clients. If a young practitioner such as this one is not able to stay in the area there will be a severe shortage of food animal practitioners within a few years.

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 area represented in this nomination has a very diverse agriculture and livestock industry. There are some very large ranches in the range of 12,000 acres and 1,200 mother cows and there are many small acreages with herds of livestock in the 10 head or so range. This means there are some very knowledgeable producers and there are many who are not familiar with severe disease symptoms. 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. My largest concern is that as producers are forced to do more of their own herd work and individual animal treatments and food animal veterinarians decrease in number the veterinarian/client/patient relationship is weakened and diseases such as Vesicular Stomatitis, Classical Swine Fever, and Foot and Mouth disease may get introduced into small herds and not be reported. It is essential that we find ways to keep veterinarians knowledgeable about notifiable diseases in the field.

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