

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: Osage County and the eastern half of Kay 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 60 and State Highway 18 in Osage County, 1 mile east of Burbank, OK 74633
(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.

40 %

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 166,000 beef cattle, 75,000 beef cows, 400 sows, and 2,400 sheep and goats in this rural area of approximately 65,000 people. There are 1,700 farms and ranches in the area. The objectives of a veterinarian in this area will be to provide service to the livestock producers in the area as well as provide needed services to companion animals and equines. A veterinarian is expected to devote at least 40% of his/her time to practicing food animal medicine. There are six veterinarians in the area who do some food animal work, but the majority of them focus on companion animal practice. This area is home to some of the largest cattle ranches in Oklahoma and some of the most historic. The number of smaller ranches has increased due to growth from Tulsa to the east of the area. More and more people want to live outside the city and have a few livestock on smaller "ranchettes". A successful food animal practitioner must know enough about the beef cattle business to gain the trust of the large ranchers, while having the patience to educate and assist the small producers. 4-H and FFA are important parts of this rural area, so the successful applicant for this position must be willing and able to become a part of the community and work with the youth, parents, and instructors of these organizations.

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 county consists of mostly cow/calf and stocker beef operations. The food animal medicine is steady year around with peak activity in the fall and spring. Most of the swine work is with show swine and show swine breeding operations. Small ruminants are a significant portion of the food animal population. There are several small poultry operations that require some veterinary service. There are needs for equine, exotics, and companion animals in the area and this person is expected to help fill those needs. This is a large area and a veterinarian doing food animal work will be required to do some mobile work. The successful candidate will work hard and will truly be a "mixed animal practitioner" but the people in this area are mostly good solid citizens who have lived here their entire lives and appreciate someone who works hard and tries to help them. When not working there are ample opportunities for shopping, dining, and other entertainment in nearby Tulsa to the east, Oklahoma City to the south, and Wichita, KS to the north. For the outdoor minded, hunting and fishing opportunities are abundant in the area.

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).

Several of the veterinarians who did a lot of food animal practice in the past are looking at the prospect of retirement. One of those hired a new graduate three years ago but was unable to retain him. There are younger practitioners in the area who would like to do more food animal work, but because of economics are forced to focus more on companion animal practice. A VMLRP award would be a tremendous asset to a young practitioner in this area to help him/her afford to stay in the area long enough to build a clientele and/or take over one of the established practices. There are several older veterinarians to provide mentorship to a younger 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).

If there are not enough food animal practitioners in the area the livestock population and the producers will be under served. General herd health will suffer and producers will have a more difficult time being profitable. Producers will have to transport their animals farther or pay more to have out of the area veterinarians to come to their premise. This area has a stable cow/calf industry, but thousands of stocker cattle are grazed here at different times of the year. I work with a practitioner in Texas every year to assist in getting steers from Mexico brought to this area for grazing. I believe the potential for accidental introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease or a disease such as Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, or Vesicular Stomatitis is greater in this area than in many other parts of the state. It is very important that we have practitioners with an interest in food animals who will be our first line of defense to alert regulatory officials to the appearance of unusual cases. It is important that this practitioner be someone who is in the area long enough to get to know the producers and to gain their trust so they will call him/her when their livestock are experiencing unusual symptoms. As the State Veterinarian I work very hard to develop relationships with all our practitioners so they will report unusual cases to us. It's been interesting that the young practitioners that I talk to while they're still in veterinary school, and especially the ones we've been able to help with VMLRP awards are more aware of the dangers and are more apt to call and report unusual cases. A young veterinarian who gets one of these awards not only gains the personal benefits, but is a great benefit to the State and the Nation.

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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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.