Shortage ID OK201
VMLRP USE ONLY

NIFA

NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0050
Expiration Date: 9/30/2019

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: Counties of Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, Hughes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, and Sequoyah in East Central 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): Checotah, OK 74426
(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)	**May cover**
☒ Beef Cattle	☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle	☐ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine	☐ Swine
☐ Poultry	☒ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant	☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____	☒ Other: Camelids

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).

The objectives for a veterinarian in this shortage situation are to spend at least 50% of their time providing food animal services in this nine County area which comprises the East Central Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics District. They should work to gain the trust of the livestock producers in their practice area. There are 8,678 livestock premises in this area. They contain over 529,000 cattle, over 250,000 hogs, 6,000 sheep, and over 11,000 goats. Most of the cattle are cow/calf herds of less than 100 head. There are eight livestock auction markets that receive cattle from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Missouri as well as Oklahoma, and send those cattle to multiple other states. With all this movement in and out of the area it's critical that we have food animal veterinarians to provide services and to recognize and report potential foreign animal or emerging diseases.

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 characteers or less).

The veterinarian who is chosen to fill this shortage area must utilize their skills and knowledge to diagnose, treat, perform surgical and obstetrical procedures, assist producers with individual and herd livestock health, prescribe appropriate drugs, and follow up on cases. A veterinarian who works hard, is interested in the community and the people, who works with community organizations and youth organizations such as 4-H and FFA will become a valuable member of the community very quickly. This practitioner must be willing to make mobile calls and will need to take emergency calls to help establish his/her practice. Cow/calf and stocker cattle practice will take up most of the time, but small ruminant and show swine work will also be significant parts of the practice. Equine and companion animal work will fill the time when the food animal practice is experiencing any down time. It will take a well rounded individual to be successful here. They are expected to develop a relationship with regulatory officials, become knowledgeable about reportable diseases, and report suspected foreign animal or emerging diseases properly.

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 62 Category II Accredited Veterinarians in this region, but only 23 of the them spend a significant amount of their time practicing on food animals. Five food animal practitioners have retired in the past two years and six more are at retirement age. Three practices in this area have hired young associates in the past two years that left the area for other jobs. Two practices have successfully hired and retained associates in the past four years, but more food animal practitioners are needed. The VMLRP is a great enticement to young associates or new practice owners to locate and stay in this area.

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).

Having adequate numbers of food animal practitioners in a region advances animal and public health through disease prevention and treatment and adequate pre-harvest food practices including FDA Veterinary Feed Directive requirements. They also provide surveillance, recognition, and reporting of disease outbreaks. This proposed shortage area has a tremendous amount of animal traffic moving through it with cattle coming from all over the southeast US as well as Mexico. This means that the potential for foreign animal and emerging diseases to be discovered here is significant. There is an Air Force base in this region so the potential for accidental or intentional FAD exposure is possible.

Food animal veterinarians are regarded by rural communities as knowledgeable professionals who are capable of early detection and reporting of diseases potentially causing negative impacts to livestock, public health and/or agricultural trade. Failure to secure and retain adequate veterinary infrastructure in an underserved area contributes to an unacceptable increase in the risk of timely detection of diseases of severe economic impact and loss of timely care for livestock that are diseased or require emergency procedures which in turn leads to an increase in livestock mortalities and increased producer costs. Food animal veterinarians provide an important knowledge base of animal health, public health, animal care and welfare, and livestock industries to the community they serve.

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 A

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, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-050
Expiration Date:9/30/2019