

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 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

Harmon, Greer, and Jackson Counties, Oklahoma

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(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 State Highway 34 and County Road E1520 in Greer County, OK

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage:

Moderate Priority

High Priority

Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

THIS IS ONE OF TWO SUBMISSIONS OF THIS AREA FOR THE SAME SITUATION

Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover(check at least one)

Beef Cattle

Dairy Cattle

Swine

Poultry

Small Ruminant

Other: _____

May cover

Beef Cattle

Dairy Cattle

Swine

Poultry

Small Ruminant

Other: _____

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

Beef Cattle

Dairy Cattle

Swine

Poultry

Small Ruminant

Other: _____

May cover

Beef Cattle

Dairy Cattle

Swine

Poultry

Small Ruminant

Other: _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

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

Food Safety

Public Health

Epidemiology

Other: _____

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 200 words or less).

This three county area is in the extreme southwest corner of Oklahoma. Of the 35,000 residents, 20,000 live in the city of Altus, which is home to Altus Air Force Base. This a very rural area which is home to 1,600 farms and ranches that own 87,000 cattle, 3,500 sheep and goats, and many small show pig herds. There are strong 4-H and FFA programs in all of rural Oklahoma and a veterinarian in this area must work with the students, sponsors, and parents involved in the organizations. A veterinarian in this area will also need to be involved in the community and be able to communicate and deal with people well. Veterinarians in rural Oklahoma are looked upon as being important, knowledgeable people and have the opportunity and duty to be an important part of the community and area. The successful applicant for this position is expected to devote at least 60% of his/her time to food animal medicine. This is a duplicate nomination, as I believe this area needs two additional veterinarians practicing food animal medicine.

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 200 words or less).

The livestock population of this area has decreased in the past two years due to the severe drought Oklahoma has endured. Hopefully that weather trend is reversing. Beef cow/calf practice makes up the majority of the food animal work in the area, followed by stocker calf practice. The cow/calf practice provides year around work with a drop off in the summer months. The stocker practice is concentrated in the fall and winter and increases or decreases in proportion to the amount of wheat pasture. This area is some of the driest in the state and lends itself well to sheep and goat grazing so a veterinarian in this area must be willing and able to provide services to the small ruminants. This veterinarian will also fill a void for equine and companion animal service in this mostly rural area. There are no large population centers near, but Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, and Amarillo are easily accessible for weekend shopping and entertainment trips.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Four of the five practices in the area have veterinarians who are between 65 and 75. Two practices have stopped doing food animal work in the past few years because they have not been able to recruit younger food animal practitioners. This only leaves five younger veterinarians who do a significant amount of food animal work. Without the help of the VMLRP one or more of these young veterinarians will not be able to stay in the area. This is a duplicate nomination, as I believe the area has a need for two recruited or retained veterinarians.

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 250 words or less).

As older practitioners retire or cease doing food animal practice in this area, the lack of practitioners willing to do food animal work will create several potential problems. Lack of food animal practitioners results in not having the first line of defense to report and treat highly contagious or foreign animal diseases and zoonotic diseases. Veterinarians play a large part in consulting with producers to ensure that drugs are used properly. Without veterinary input the chance of tissue residues, which can cause antibiotic resistance and human illness, is increased. Veterinarians are important parts of the One Health network and their relationships with human health providers is very important.

(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 on Page 1, 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.

60%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

- Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week
- Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week
- Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- X** By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- X** 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 and

Forestry

rod.hall@ag.ok.gov

Email: _____

405-522-0270

Telephone Number: _____

(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.