

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

**Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for 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 position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: OK111**

**Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination**

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Jackson County, OK; Tillman County, OK; the Southern 1/3 of Kiowa County OK and the Western 1/4 of Comanche County, OK  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Altus, Jackson County and Frederic, Tillman County  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

**Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty**

- Type I Shortage: Private Practice  
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)  
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:
- Beef Cattle
  - Dairy Cattle
  - Swine
  - Poultry
  - Small Ruminant
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area  
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)  
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:
- Beef Cattle
  - Dairy Cattle
  - Swine
  - Poultry
  - Small Ruminant
  - Other : \_\_\_\_\_

- Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.
- Food Safety
  - Public Health
  - Epidemiology
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting 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).

(Statistics used in all responses within this document courtesy of NASS 2007 Census of Agriculture and the Oklahoma Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.)

In assessing the overall need for food and fiber veterinarians in Oklahoma, it has become apparent that there are many counties, regions and practice types that should be considered as areas of critical need. Southwestern Oklahoma has a rich history as a traditional beef cow calf and stocker area. The area has suffered during the economic instability created by changes in the oil and gas industry and has seen a greater emphasis placed on animal agriculture. Due to the size of communities in this area, this is a Type I critical need. In Jackson and Tillman Counties there are only three veterinarians who devote 80% or greater to large animal practice, there are no veterinarians in the portions of Cotton and Comanche listed in this nomination request. There are 850 farming/ranching units, 105,000 head of cattle and a significant small ruminant population within this designated region. The largest town in the western portion of this area is Altus, population 18,912, the largest community in the eastern portion of this area is Frederic, population 3,869. The objective for this area is to meet the need of cattle and goat raising stakeholders and to offer vital and needed relief to the small number of private veterinarians working to meet this need. The State of Oklahoma would expect a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation to devote 80% or greater of his or her time in the practice of food animal medicine.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

**The principle day-to-day professional activities expected of a veterinarian meeting the needs of this multi-county area shall focus on beef and dairy cattle practice and include; ambulatory as well a clinical services, herd health, obstetrics, nutrition, client education, diagnostics, preventative health care, surgery, breeding management, foreign animal disease recognition, antimicrobial use education and tissue residue prevention education. This veterinarian shall comply with the Oklahoma Practice Act, be accredited with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, adhere to the statutes and rules of the of the State of Oklahoma covering disease and animal movement and work with the State Veterinarian to insure the health of the herd and flock of the State of Oklahoma.** It is paramount for the safety of the food supply, the health of the meat and fiber national and international markets and the health and safety of the American consuming public that veterinarians dedicated and versed in veterinary medicine, foreign animal disease, zoonotic disease and appropriate use of antimicrobials are available in this area of our state.

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).

The two practices within this region have made multiple attempts to recruit veterinarians. Due to the remote location and the lack of a town of significant size, the perception has been that the quality of life for families would be less than desirable. There are excellent school systems in the two communities and Lawton, OK offers a cultural and shopping hub. It is a fact that veterinarians graduating from our veterinary colleges today are going into small animal medicine and seeking employment in larger communities. The Oklahoma State College Veterinary Health Sciences prepares food and fiber veterinarians well to meet the needs of industry. The school has two programs, a rural practice summer camp for high school juniors and seniors and a food animal track with job placement. Neither of these programs has been successful. Graduating veterinarians seek a standard and quality of life for themselves and their families, jobs for spouses, good schools and social opportunities. This debt repayment program will allow recipients to purchase homes, enjoy a better quality of life, remain in rural communities and repay loans that can hamper families struggling to survive in today's economy.

Note: Even though a veterinarian received a grant opportunity in this area during the 2010 award year, there has been a additional retirement of a practitioner and the need for veterinarians in this area still exists.

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).

**The consequences of not filling this critical need are many and varied. First and foremost is the protection of the food supply and the cost to consumers in the event of a Foreign Animal Disease outbreak or a food borne pathogen event. Animal health begins on the farm and ranch, food safety begins on the farm and ranch. In the U.S., we must take a farm to fork approach to a safe and abundant food supply. This grass roots approach puts the food animal practitioner in a pivotal and critical roll in education, disease recognition, disease mitigation and foreign animal disease reporting. We need and we must have educated, excited and dedicated veterinarians on the ground in areas of animal agriculture And without this program that will not happen in remote and critical deficit counties, regions, and states.**

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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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, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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