

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.

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.

Cotton County, eastern Tillman, and southern Comanche County, Oklahoma

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

_____ (e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
 Location of Position:

Walters in Cotton County, Oklahoma

_____ (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).

There are 70,000 beef cattle, 15,000 beef cows, 200 dairy cows, 150 sows, and 500 sheep and goats in this rural area of 8,000 people. 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. There is one veterinarian in this area that provides almost all the food animal practice and most of the companion animal and equine practice. If this veterinarian were to close his practice there would definitely be a shortage in the area. A veterinarian is expected to devote at least 50% of his/her time to practicing 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).

This area is in southern Oklahoma. It has a fairly equal amount of beef cow/ calf and beef stocker industry. There are a few small dairies and one large dairy calf raising facility. There is some swine work which is almost all of the show swine variety. As is the case in most of Oklahoma the goat industry is increasing and this requires a veterinarian in the area to be willing and able to assist the producers who own goats. There are needs for equine, exotics, and companion animals in the area and this person is expected to help fill those needs. I believe all veterinarians should be active in their community and I believe it is even more important in the more rural areas of the state such as this one. Getting to know the potential clients through community activities and organizations such as 4-H and FFA is very important.

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).

One town in the area had a veterinary clinic which closed recently due to the age of the practitioner. He was unable to find a person to work for him or to purchase the practice. There are veterinarians who offer some food animal service within 35 miles of the center of this area, but the amount of food animal service they provide is limited. Lawton, Oklahoma is 25 miles away and Wichita Falls, Texas is 25 miles away the other direction. Both of these cities are close to 100,000 population and offer a variety of shopping and entertainment experiences. There are a few good veterinarians with 20 -30 years experience within 40 or 50 miles to offer mentoring to a veterinarian 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 250 words or less).

The initial consequence of the position not being filled is that the livestock population and the producers will be underserved. 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. More far reaching and potentially more dangerous consequences are not having a veterinarian in the local area as the first line of defense to diagnose and report foreign animal diseases and/or zoonotic diseases that could have a detrimental impact on the health and economy of the area and possibly the entire state and the nation. A practicing veterinarian in local areas is a point of contact for state and federal animal health officials and is a valuable liaison between animal health officials and the livestock producers.

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:

Name: Rod Hall, DVM

Oklahoma State Veterinarian

Title: _____

Organization: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Email: Rod.hall@ag.ok.gov

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

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