



# NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission  
"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **USDA Announces Two Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Award Offers in Texas**

**AUSTIN-** The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced it will offer awards to veterinarians in Texas to help repay veterinary school loans. The federal Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) is designed to encourage veterinarians to practice in underserved or rural areas of the United States, with a focus on food animal medicine and/or public practice.

To determine which shortage situations correspond with offers extended to applicants who successfully competed for available funding during the most recent VMLRP program cycle, click on your state(s) of interest from the US map at this site:

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in\\_focus/vmlrp\\_14/vmlrp\\_shortage\\_situation\\_usmap.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp_14/vmlrp_shortage_situation_usmap.html)

"A shortage of available veterinary services for producers of food animals in rural communities is a long term concern. Each year, TAHC accepts area nominations and works closely with producers, stakeholder organizations and the veterinary community to ensure rural areas of Texas with a veterinary shortage are identified and eligible to participate in this USDA program." said Dr. Holly Hughes-Garza, Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Staff Veterinarian.

Award recipients are required to commit to three years of veterinary service in a designated veterinary shortage area. Participants are required to serve in one of three types of shortage situations.

- Type 1 shortage areas are private practices dedicated to food animal medicine at least 80 percent of the time.
- Type 2 shortages are private practices in rural areas dedicated to food animal medicine up to 30 percent of the time.
- Type 3 shortage areas are dedicated to public practice up to 49 percent of the time.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC,) one of the oldest state regulatory agencies, was founded in 1893 with a mission to combat the fever ticks that plagued the Texas cattle industry. Today, the agency works to protect the health of all Texas livestock including: cattle, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, exotic livestock and fowl.

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