



NEWS RELEASE

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

November 12, 2010

USDA Selects Four Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Awardees in Texas

AUSTIN – The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced it will offer awards to four veterinarians in Texas to repay their 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.

In Texas, for the first year of this program, all of the awards were offered for private practice in a rural area. The following areas of Texas were matched to a veterinarian and an offer was made for service to that area.

- 1) Type II Private Practice, Rural Area: Matagorda, Wharton, & Jackson Counties
- 2) Type I Private Practice: Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Hartley, & Moore Counties
- 3) Type II Private Practice, Rural Area: Cochran, Yoakum, Gaines, & Dawson Counties
- 4) Type II Private Practice, Rural Area: Wichita, Clay, Archer, & Montague Counties

"A shortage of available veterinary services for producers of food animals in rural communities is a long term problem. TAHC will continue to work 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 valuable USDA program." said Dr. Dee Ellis, Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Executive Director and State Veterinarian.

For the 2011 fiscal year, the TAHC will again be asked by the USDA to designate shortage areas throughout the state. These areas may be filled with VMLRP awardees. Over the next three months, the TAHC will be seeking input regarding the nomination of these areas from a broad range of stakeholders including veterinarians, veterinary educators, livestock producers and the public.

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.

A map of the VMLRP awardees can be viewed on the NIFA website.

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp/vmlrp_shortage_situation_usmap.html

For more information and statistics on the nationwide results of the VMLRP for 2010, visit the USDA.

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2010news/11081_vmlrp.html

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

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