



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2010

TAHC Now Accepting Nominations for Veterinary Loan Repayment Program

AUSTIN - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is accepting nominations for areas of the state experiencing a shortage of veterinarians engaging in food animal medicine, rural, or public practice. The TAHC will forward nominations on selected shortage areas to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for inclusion in the national Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) for the 2011 award cycle. The VMLRP will pay up to \$25,000 per year for three years, towards qualified educational loans for eligible veterinarians who agree to serve in a designated shortage area.

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture has specific criteria for nominated areas and the state will not be able to forward a nomination unless all of the criteria has been met. Individual nominations may also be edited or combined with others from nearby communities by the TAHC when appropriate.

The USDA has focused this program on three types of veterinary practice and will accept nominations in each category.

- Type I Shortage situations involve 80 percent or greater private practice veterinary food supply work.
- Type II Shortages involve 30 percent or greater private practice food supply veterinary medicine in a rural (remote or economically depressed) area.
- Type III Shortage is defined as public practice, including work in public health, laboratory, local or state veterinary work, meat inspection or epidemiology.

Late applications will not be accepted by the TAHC. For help from the USDA on completing the nomination form, visit

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

In addition to newly nominated areas for 2011, there are four Texas areas that may be carried over from 2010 because they were not filled with a veterinarian this year. If you have comments about those areas, either in support of keeping them or with concerns about them, please send an email to comments@tahc.state.tx.us. It is also permissible

to re-nominate an area into which a veterinarian has previously been placed if there is a need for more than one veterinarian in that area.

If you would like to nominate an area for the loan repayment program, please fill out the attached nomination form and forward to comments@tahc.state.tx.us. Questions about the process can be directed to Dr. Holly Poremski at 512-719-0718 or comments@tahc.state.tx.us. Please do not send your form directly to the USDA as they will not be accepted unless approved by the state veterinarian. Nominations are due to the TAHC in electronic form or by fax at 512-719-0719, no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 26, 2011.

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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