



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA Selects Five Texas Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Awardees

AUSTIN – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced it will offer awards to five Texas veterinarians to help repay their veterinary school loans this year. 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.

2011 VMLRP shortage maps:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp_11/vmlrp_shortage_situation_usmap.html

While the Texas Animal Health Commission does not administer this loan program, each year TAHC solicits input from a broad range of stakeholders including veterinarians, veterinary educators, livestock producers and the public to identify which geographic areas of Texas to nominate for the VMLRP.

"Maintaining an adequate veterinary presence in rural areas and making veterinary care available for food animal species is crucial to ensuring the quality of animal health and disease detection in our state," said Dr. Dee Ellis, state veterinarian.

In its second year of operation, the VMLRP program helps qualified veterinarians repay up to \$75,000 of debt they incurred while pursuing their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in a designated veterinary shortage situation for at least three years

For more information contact the VMLRP via email at vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov . Comments or questions related to the designated shortage areas may be directed to comments@tahc.state.tx.us .

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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