



## NEWS RELEASE

**Texas Animal Health Commission**

*"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TAHC Now Accepting Area 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 to work in food animal medicine, rural, or public practice. The TAHC will forward nominations for selected shortage areas to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for inclusion in the national Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) for the 2012 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 these criteria have been met. Individual nominations may also be edited or combined with others from nearby communities by the TAHC when appropriate. Including your current information will help TAHC staff contact you if there are questions or need for clarification on your nomination.

The USDA program focuses 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 more information about the VMLRP and the process of shortage designation, visit:

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in\\_focus/an\\_health\\_if\\_vmlrp.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp.html).

A map of the designated shortage areas from 2011 can be viewed on the USDA website at:

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in\\_focus/vmlrp\\_11/vmlrp\\_shortage\\_situation\\_texas.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp_11/vmlrp_shortage_situation_texas.html).

Any of the areas designated but not filled in 2011 (shown in black on the map) may be carried over to 2012. Areas highlighted in red may also be re-nominated, meaning a second

veterinarian could receive an award to practice in that area. TAHC will accept comments in favor of or against re-nominating previously designated areas to the same email or fax listed below.

If you would like to nominate an area of Texas for the federal loan repayment program, please complete the attached nomination form and forward to [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us) or fax to 512-719-0719 attention Dr. Holly Poremski. Questions about the process can be directed to Dr. Poremski at 512-719-0718 or [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us). *Please do not send forms directly to the USDA as they will not be accepted unless approved by the State Veterinarian.* **Deadline:** TAHC will accept nominations until **5 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2012.**

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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