



## NEWS RELEASE

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

May 9, 2011

# USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Currently Accepting Applications

AUSTIN - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that applications are now being taken for the USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP.) The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) facilitated a Texas stakeholder working group to identify areas in need of rural vet practitioners. Eight multi-county areas in Texas have been designated as VMLRP shortage situations. To view the designated Texas shortage situation counties, visit

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

Authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA,) the program helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of debt they incurred while pursuing their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in designated high-priority veterinary shortage situations for an allotted period of time. If a qualified veterinarian commits to at least three years in providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area, USDA's National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) may repay up to \$25,000 of their student loan debt per year.

Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received for the attendance at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equivalent. All eligible veterinarians, including women, individuals from underrepresented groups, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the loan repayment program. The eligibility criteria can be found at

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

The VMLRP application cycle is open from May 9-July 8, 2011. A veterinarian may submit only one application per cycle. NIFA will host several webinar sessions for individuals who may be interested in applying this year.

For more information contact the VMLRP via email at [vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov). While the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) does not administer this program, comments or questions related to the shortage areas may be directed to [comments@tahc.state.tx.us](mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us).

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