



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 <http://www.tahc.texas.gov>

For more information contact the Communications Dept. at 512-719-0728 or at callie.ward@tahc.texas.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2015

Accepting Nominations for Areas of Texas for the USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is accepting nominations until Monday, January 11, 2016 for areas of the state experiencing a specific need for veterinarians to work in food animal medicine, rural private practice, or public practice.

The TAHC will forward nominations for selected areas to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for inclusion in the national Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) for the 2016 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 be edited or combined with others from nearby communities by the TAHC when appropriate. Including your current information will help the TAHC staff contact you if clarification is needed regarding your nomination. Specific details on livestock populations, changing industry demographics, gaps in specific veterinary services currently available, community support, and future outlook for veterinary services are all valuable criteria in defining the need in a specific area.

The USDA program focuses on three types of veterinary practice and will accept nominations in each category:

- Type I Shortage situations involve need for a veterinarian to spend at least 80 percent of time working on food animal species in a private practice setting.
- Type II Shortages involve need for a veterinarian to spend at least 30 percent of time working on food animal species, and providing veterinary services in a rural (remote or economically depressed) area in a private practice setting.
- Type III Shortage is defined as public practice, including work in public health, laboratory, local or state government veterinary work, meat inspection or epidemiology.

A map of the previously designated shortage areas from 2015 can be viewed on the USDA website at:

<http://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-map?state=222&fy%5Bvalue%5D%5Byear%5D=2015&=Apply>. Any of the areas designated but not filled in 2015 (listed below the map) may be carried over to 2016. TAHC will accept comments regarding the need to re-nominate previously designated areas. To submit comments, refer to the TAHC email or fax listed below.

The nomination form can be found at: www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/VMLRP.pdf Once completed, forward the form to comments@tahc.texas.gov or fax to 512-719-0719 attention Dr. Susan Culp. Questions about the process, or comments regarding existing designated areas shown on the 2015 map, can be directed to Dr. Susan Culp at 512-719-0716 or comments@tahc.texas.gov.

Please do **not** send forms directly to the USDA as they will not be accepted unless approved by the State Veterinarian.

Deadline: The TAHC will accept nominations until 5:00 pm on Monday, January 11, 2015. Late applications will not be accepted by the TAHC. For more information about the VMLRP and the process of shortage designation, visit:

<http://nifa.usda.gov/program/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>.

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