



For Immediate Release  
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## Apply for 2021 USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

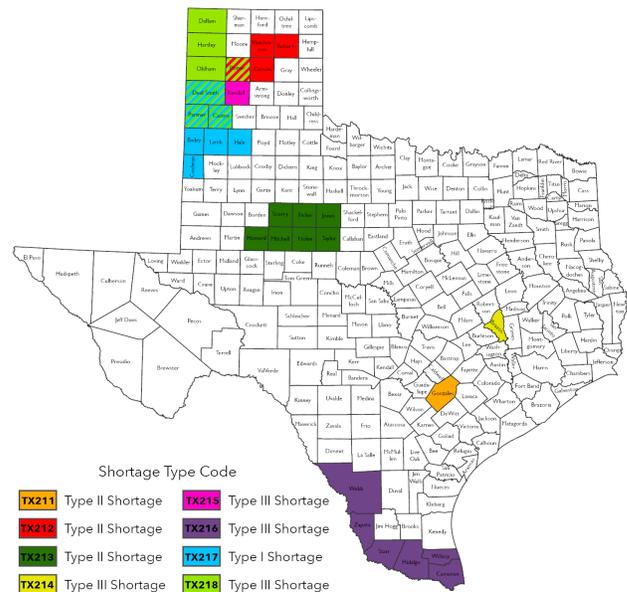
AUSTIN, TX – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) applications for the eight Texas areas designated as having veterinary shortages. Applications may be submitted through April 16, 2021 by 5:00pm (ET).

The VMLRP is authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act and helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of debt incurred while pursuing their veterinary medicine degree in return for at least three years of service in a designated veterinary shortage area.

To be eligible to apply to the VMLRP, an applicant must:

1. Have a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), or the equivalent, from a college of veterinary medicine accredited by the AVMA Council on Education;
2. Have qualifying educational loan debt as defined in [7 CFR 3431 Section 3](#);
3. Secure an offer of employment or establish and/or maintain a practice in a veterinary shortage situation, as determined by the Secretary, within the time period specified in the VMLRP service agreement offer; and
4. Provide certifications and verifications in accordance with [7 CFR 3431 Section 16](#).

Texas Veterinary Services Shortage Situations for FY2021



The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will offer a webinar for interested Texas veterinary applicants on Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 6:30-7:00pm (CT). The webinar will provide guidance on how to apply followed by a question and answer forum. To register for the webinar, please email [roger.parker@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:roger.parker@tahc.texas.gov) and include your name and email address in the body of the email.

For more information about the FY 2021 VMLRP application process, visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-applicants> or contact [vmlrp.applications@usda.gov](mailto:vmlrp.applications@usda.gov). While the TAHC does not administer this program, the commission is designated to nominate and certify veterinary shortage situations allocated by USDA. Comments or questions may be directed to [roger.parker@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:roger.parker@tahc.texas.gov).

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*The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting [www.tahc.texas.gov](http://www.tahc.texas.gov).*