



United States
Department
of Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

August 26, 2019

Mr. Kevin Cain
Director
Governmental Affairs
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
655 K. Street, NW., #725
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Cain:

Thank you for your letter dated July 16, 2019 regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP). As mentioned in your letter, both programs play an important role in bringing critical veterinary services to USDA shortage situations throughout rural America.

The National Program Leader for the VMLRP grant program is Dr. Michele Colby and the VSGP grant program is currently led by Dr. Robert Smith, DVM, Ph.D. DACVN. Upon relocation to Kansas City, both Dr. Smith and Josh Stull, our Congressional and Stakeholder Affairs Officer, will continue to be key contacts for the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges throughout the transition.

Please know that during this transition, NIFA will continue to serve our customers, clients, stakeholders, and research community with the same high level of work that we always conduct. Our grantees may experience delays, but we are committed to servicing our partners and customers as quickly as we can. NIFA is making every effort to obligate all FY 2019 annual awards before September 30, 2019. This includes VMLRP and VSGP.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your interest in these two important NIFA programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Josh Stull at (202) 603-9344. A similar letter has been sent to your colleague.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Angle
Director