

ONE HEALTH: Animal Health. Environmental Health. Human Health.

»» Support the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP)

These two programs are found in 7 USC 3101, Section 1415A and 1415B of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Together, these programs help insure that the profession of veterinary medicine is able to provide modern animal health, public health and disease control services throughout rural areas of the United States.

AAVMC[®]

American Association of
Veterinary Medical Colleges

202-371-9195 • aavmc.org

VMLRP

The VMLRP recruits critically needed livestock and public health veterinarians to practice in areas of the country with specific needs or shortage situations, as designated by USDA and state animal health officials. It awards loan repayment of \$25,000 per year for up to three years.

- Received its first funding in 2010, for \$4.8 million.
- Made 706 awards to date.
- Funded in FY 2023 at \$10 million.

Our Request

- An increase for VMLRP to \$10.5 million.

Justification for VMLRP Support

- Average student debt has risen from \$75,000 to nearly \$172,000 since the inception of the program.
- With an increase, USDA could expand contracts to four years, give additional awards, increase the annual award to \$35,000, or support a combination of these.
- Currently there are nearly three applicants for every position that is filled.

VSGP

The VSGP is designed to address gaps in shortage situations by preparing and assisting veterinarians for practice in rural areas, facilitating private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, and specifically aiding the practices of veterinarians who have completed service under the VMLRP.

- Authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Received initial funding of \$2.5 million in the FY 2016 Omnibus.
- Funded at \$4 million for FY 2023.

Our Request

- An increase for the VSGP to \$4.5 million.

Justification for VSGP Support

- The two programs are designed to work together. VSGP is forbidden from funding any type of construction, but can otherwise be used in any way to help veterinarians stay, and succeed, in rural areas that likely would have a pronounced shortage of primarily food animal veterinarians.



ONE HEALTH: Animal Health. Environmental Health. Human Health.

»» Co-Sponsor the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Enhancement Act

This program will help ensure that the profession of veterinary medicine is able to provide modern animal health, public health, and disease control services throughout rural areas of the United States.

This program can assist with the rising costs of education and removing the tax will help lessen the shortage of veterinarians in areas of need.

AAVMC[®]
American Association of
Veterinary Medical Colleges

202-371-9195 • aavmc.org

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>) provides loan repayment of up to \$25,000 per year for three years. Payments are made to veterinarians with qualified student loans who have agreed to practice in areas that the US Department of Agriculture has designated as having a shortage of veterinarians, especially for food animals.

Since 2010, the inception of the program, USDA has made 706 awards to public practice and food animal veterinarians in 47 states and Puerto Rico.

Unfortunately, the program is subject to a 37 percent withholding tax. Essentially, for each dollar appropriated for the program, 37 cents is withheld and transferred back to the U.S. Treasury. If this were not the case, one additional veterinarian could be provided with loan repayment for every three awards currently made. This bipartisan legislation would eliminate that tax disparity.

The National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program is already tax free for most other healthcare professions.

This recent report highlights the current shortage of rural veterinarians. Farm Journal Foundation Report: https://www.farmjournalfoundation.org/_files/ugd/cfc3f3_a4daf753ad254d31a95ce13f47636e5d.pdf

CONTACTS TO CO-SPONSOR:

This bipartisan legislation is expected to be introduced soon in both the House and Senate. Kevin Cain with AAVMC will contact your office with more information when that takes place.



ONE HEALTH: Animal Health. Environmental Health. Human Health.

»» Pass A New Farm Bill, With Improvements for Animal Agriculture

It is imperative that Congress pass a bi-partisan Farm Bill reauthorization, so that critical programs related to research, education and infrastructure do not lapse. The current legislation is set to expire on September 30, 2023.

AAVMC[®]
American Association of
Veterinary Medical Colleges

202-371-9195 • aavmc.org

AAVMC has several priorities in the new bill, including:

1. Reauthorizing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program and the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VMLRP and VSGP). These programs are more important than ever given the ongoing shortage of rural veterinarians.
2. Reauthorize the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD). FARAD is housed at five colleges of veterinary medicine: The University of California-Davis, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Virginia-Maryland, and Kansas State University. FARAD develops and maintains data that producers rely on to keep harmful drug residues and chemical exposures out of the food animal supply chain.
3. Double the current authorization for FARAD from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. The program has been fully funded at \$2.5 million since FY 2018, but the cost of research and the costs to house and maintain the database have risen precipitously. Increasing the authorization will allow us the program to receive additional appropriations going forward.

These requests are also supported by the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) (AVMA) and the [Association of Public and Land Grant Universities](#) (APLU).

