

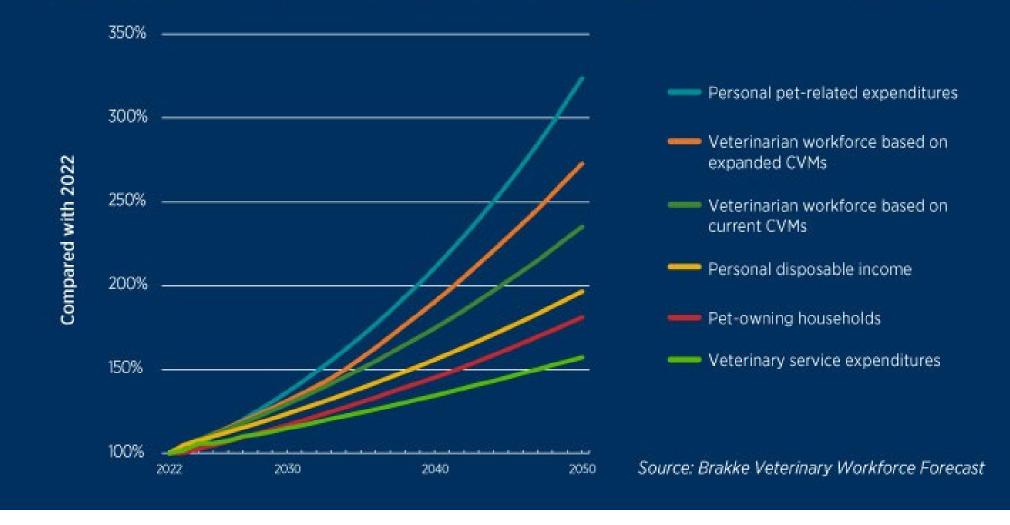
# Increasing the Rural Veterinary Workforce

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#### Veterinary workforce: Projected growth for supply/demand factors

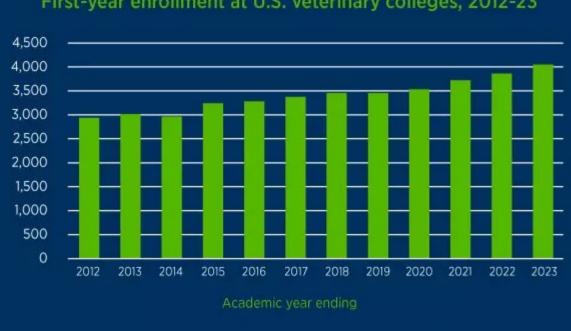




### **Future Veterinary Workforce Needs**

#### Growth in graduate numbers

- Three new colleges lacksquaregraduating veterinarians in 2023, 2024, and 2025
- 12 plus new veterinary colleges at various stages of development
- Projected class sizes at  ${}^{\bullet}$ existing colleges are increasing



First-year enrollment at U.S. veterinary colleges, 2012-23

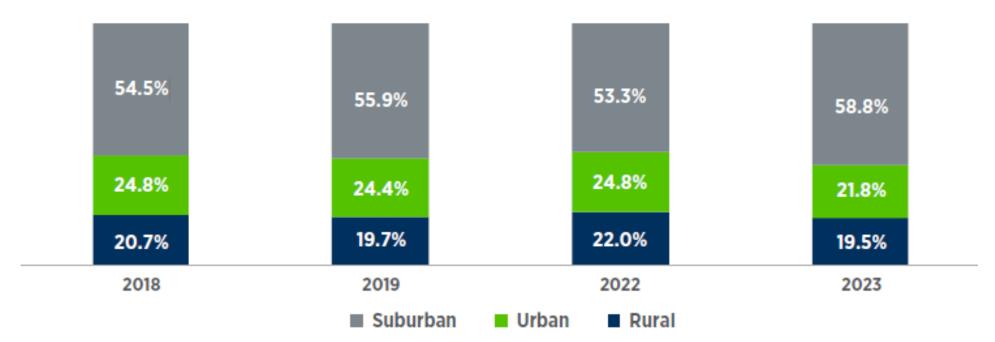
Source: American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)



### **Rural Veterinary Medicine**

• In 2023, 19.5% of veterinarians worked in a rural community.

DISTRIBUTION OF VETERINARIANS BY WORKPLACE COMMUNITY TYPE



Data on workplace community type were not collected in 2020 or 2021. Those years are therefore excluded from the graph.



## **Rural Veterinary Medicine Income**

Food animal exclusive - associate 91K Mixed practice - associate 95K Companion animal predominant - associate 110K Companion animal exclusive - associate 125K Equine practice - associate 100K 183K Food animal exclusive - owner Mixed practice - owner 125K Companion animal predominant - owner 150K 157K Companion animal exclusive - owner 139K Equine - owner Federal government (civil service) 129K 150K Uniformed services College or university 141K State/Local government 105K 175K Industry/Commercial organization Not-for-profit organization 102K Advanced education 43K Other veterinary employment 139K All veterinary employment 130K \$0K \$50K \$100K \$150K \$200K \$250K 1edian Mean High

PROFESSIONAL INCOME REPORTED IN 2023 FOR 2022, BY EMPLOYMENT TYPE

The average food animal associate reported an income of an average of \$91k

The average companion animal associate reported income of an average of \$125K



An official website of the United States government Here's how you know 🗸

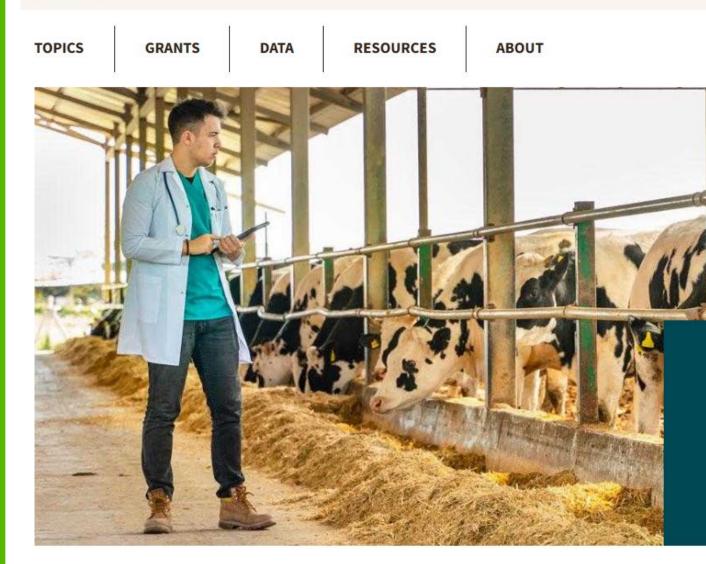
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#### The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program



#### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

- The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) provides educational loan assistance in exchange for food animal or public health veterinary service in USDA-designated shortage areas.
- VMLRP is administered through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Veterinary shortage designations are nominated annually by state animal health officials and certified by USDA NIFA.
- Participants in VMLRP receive up to \$75,000 toward student loan debt in exchange for three years of service in any USDA-designated shortage area.
- In 2024, USDA designated 240 shortage areas across 47 states (the most ever).



## Why is VMLRP important to the profession

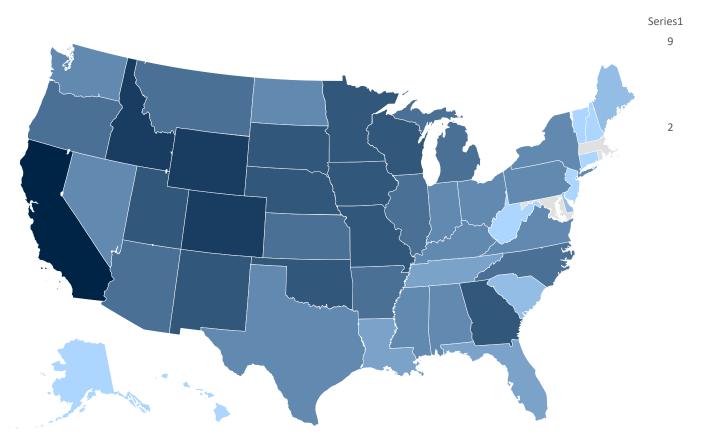
- In 2024, new graduates saw debt figures climb to an average of <u>\$202,647</u> for those with debt. 38.5% of new graduates graduated with balances over \$200k.
- This has a major impact on attracting veterinarians to rural communities, and food animal or public health careers, which typically pay less than companion animal practices.
- VMLRP is one of the important tools we have to recruit and retain veterinarians in high-need areas by assisting them with the student loan burden.



## **2024 USDA-designated Shortage Areas**

- USDA designated 240
  shortage areas across 47
  states
- 3 states with no shortage areas: MD, MA, and RI
- Interactive shortages map: <u>nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-map</u>

2024 USDA Veterinary Shortage Areas

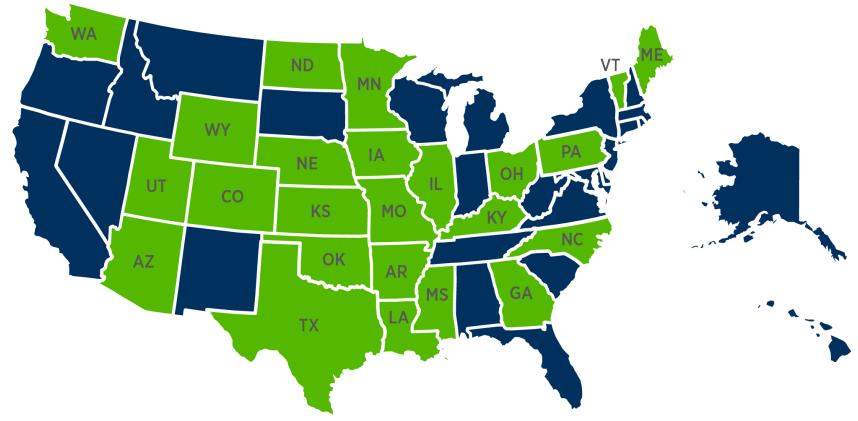


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#### State Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Scholarship Programs

Require practice in rural, shortage and/or large animal practice:



Awards vary from as low as \$10,000 to as high as \$100,000



#### State Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Scholarship Programs

#### North Carolina

- A large animal veterinarian in a designated county up to \$25,000 annually.
- "Designated county" means a county in this State with a population of less than 100,000, according to the latest decennial census.
- Uses of Grant Funds The grant recipient may use the funds to support the recipient's large animal veterinary practice, including any of the following:
  - 1. The repayment of educational loans related to the recipient's veterinary degree.
  - 2. The purchase of equipment or technology for use in the recipient's large animal veterinary practice.
  - 3. Any additional uses the Advisory Committee determines are appropriate to promote and develop large animal veterinarians to practice in designated counties.



# **QUESTIONS?**

