

Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: Applications open for vet student loan repayment program

Posted on Monday, Feb 5, 2018

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

CONTACT: Donna Gilson, 608-224-5130, donna.gilson@wi.gov
Bill Cosh, Communications Director, 608-224-5020, William2.Cosh@wi.gov

MADISON – New veterinarians can offset some of the cost of their education by committing to practice food animal medicine in one of six regions of Wisconsin, or in public health statewide under the USDA Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program.

“These are areas of the state where we have identified a shortage of veterinarians working with food animals,” said Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Paul McGraw. “Statewide, we need veterinarians to work with government agencies and other organizations that deal with the intersection of animal health and public health. Participants in the program gain a broad range of experience and get a good portion of their student loans repaid.”

The program requires participants to work in the shortage area for at least three years. In return, they can get up to \$25,000 a year toward repaying loans they received to earn their doctoral degrees or equivalent from an accredited veterinary college. Those recipients working in the six shortage regions must work with dairy and beef cattle, and may also need expertise in working with swine, poultry, goats and sheep.

The six regions of the state needing food animal veterinarians are:

Eau Claire-Jackson-Trempealeau counties

Barron County

Chippewa County

Dunn County

Adams-Columbia-Green Lake-Marquette counties

Calumet-Fond du Lac counties

Applications are due March 16. For detailed information about the program and application materials, go to <https://nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-applicants>.