

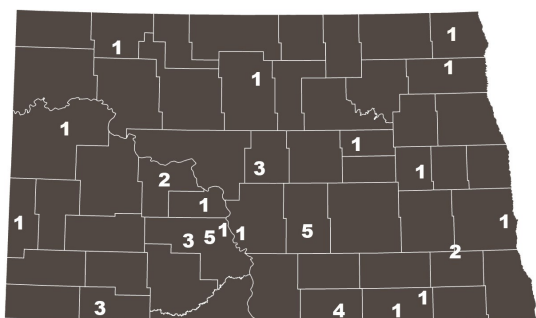


The North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association requests that:

The Veterinary Loan Repayment Program (VLRP) be continued to recruit food animal veterinarians to rural areas of need in ND.

Why NDVMA Supports the VLRP:

- The VLRP has been successful to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians to ND.



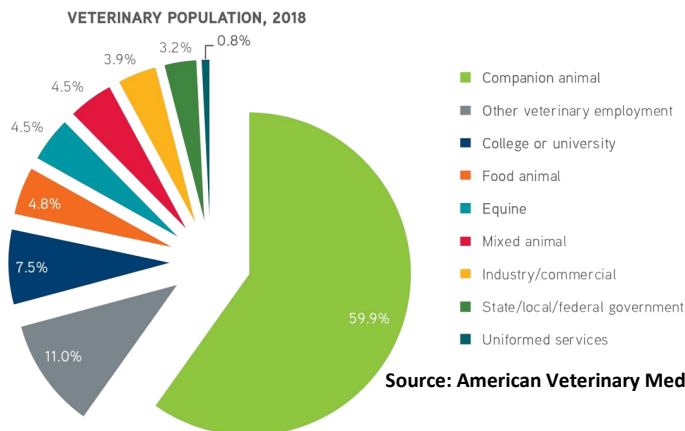
41 Recipients since the VLRP began from 2008—2020

Overall **68.9% retention rate** after fulfillment of contracts (through 2016)

- 100% retention of recipients from ND

48% of recipients through 2016 have gone on to become practice owners in ND

- The VLRP has been successful to recruit food animal veterinarians to ND especially since less than 5% of veterinarians work exclusively in food animal medicine.



Estimated number of veterinarians as of December 31, 2018: 113,394

Requiring a service payback in ND will not fill the need for rural veterinarians. Most veterinarians are choosing to work in companion animal veterinary medicine (almost 60%). The VLRP is needed to recruit new food animal veterinarians to ND as the supply of practitioners in this area of practice is limited.

- Food animal veterinarians are critical to support ND's animal food production industry and to ensure a safe food supply.

Food animal veterinarians face significant costs to establish practices and these practices will not be economically viable unless there is community support. Veterinarians are needed to promote public health, protect our food supply, and to serve in rural areas. The food animal industry is vital to the economy of North Dakota. The VLRP helps establish financial stability for veterinarians to serve in rural areas which in turn stimulates rural economies.

Who We Are:

The North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association has spent more than a century representing the interests of North Dakota veterinarians, their clients and patients. Today, the organization has around 300 members. We represent and meet the needs of the broad spectrum of veterinary medicine, including, but not limited to, small and large animals, exotic species, bovine and equine practitioners as well as veterinarians working in research, industry, academia, public health and government capacities.

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