2020 Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will carry out NVMSA by entering into educational loan repayment agreements with veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations for a determined period of time.

NIFA may repay up to \$25,000 of veterinary medicine student loan debt per year for eligible veterinarians who can commit to providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area for at least three years.

Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received for attendance at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent.

Please visit the following website for assistance with questions: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program

Local contact: Dr. Randolph Chick Arkansas State Veterinarian <u>randolph.chick@agriculture.arkansas.gov</u> (501) 823-1733