



Rural Veterinarian Loan Repayment Incentive Program 2026 Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the Iowa Farm Bureau Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program is to address the critical veterinarian shortages needed to deliver health care in rural Iowa communities. The IFBF will award up to **\$25,000** in loan repayment incentives to **four individuals** who practice veterinarian medicine in Iowa. The loan incentive is payable **over four years** toward outstanding Federal Subsidized Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, and Graduate PLUS balances at the end of each 12-month employment period (November 1 – October 31). Details on the taxability of loan repayment benefits can be found on the [IRS website](#).

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be in the final year of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program **or** have completed a DVM within the past five years.
- Licensed to practice in Iowa (or will be by November 1).
- Will have secured and contracted full-time employment in Iowa by November 1.
- Commitment to practice full-time in Iowa for four consecutive years.
- Hasn't participated in *or* received loan repayment awards through the National Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program or the Rural Iowa Veterinary Loan Repayment Program.
- Must be (or register to become) an Iowa Farm Bureau member in good standing with the county Farm Bureau and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF). For more information and to become a member go to www.iowafarmbureau.com/join.
- Farm Bureau membership must be held in the Iowa county where he/she practices and be maintained throughout the entirety of the Program.

Preference will be given to:

1. Applicants who are in their final year of a DVM degree program.
2. Large animal veterinarians.
3. Applicants who are located and/or pursuing a veterinary shortage area in Iowa as identified by the [United States Department of Agriculture](#).
4. Graduates from an Iowa high school, technical school, college, university and/or institution.
5. Individuals who demonstrate leadership skills, community involvement and a commitment to rural Iowa and/or Iowa Farm Bureau.

Selection Process

- Applications will be accepted from Monday, March 2, through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31.
- External judges will select four recipients based on eligibility criteria.
- Recipients of the program will be notified by April 20th.
- Program Agreement must be signed and returned to IFBF Community Resources Office by May 15th.

Disbursement of Funds (up to \$25,000 over 4 years)

After application review, selection and annual approval, the incentive payment will be applied to loan balances only to an authorized lender no later than December 31st. (Years 1 and 2: \$5,000 - each; Years 3 and 4: \$7,500 - each)