

Rural Veterinarian Shortage Solutions

OVERVIEW

Rural and food animal system veterinarians are vital to maintaining a safe food supply in the U.S., and they play a critical role in protecting public health. They also contribute to the economic prosperity of their rural communities. Yet the United States is facing an alarming shortfall of food animal veterinarians. This critical shortage is driven by a number of factors and threatens agricultural livelihoods, rural economic growth, disease control, animal health, and public health. Solving the challenges in the food animal veterinary sector requires a multifaceted approach that enlists support from diverse groups of stakeholders.

In 2022, Farm Journal Foundation implemented a systems solution approach to address this critical issue and drive measurable impact towards building an adequate, sustainable, and inclusive pipeline of food-animal veterinary professionals to lead and support our dynamic food value chain. The program continues to expand through partnerships and funding, providing additional programmatic and technical solutions to our partner organizations.

SUPPORTING STATE-LEVEL PARTNERS THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN ASSESSMENTS AND ACHIEVABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Our team collects farm, livestock, and poultry data from USDA, as well as data for veterinary licensing, veterinary college enrollment, boards of animal health, veterinary associations, and high school data from FFA and 4-H.

This assessment process establishes the basis for our solution recommendations.



Scan to learn more about our work, partners, education resource hub, ambassadors, and state partners.

Or contact us at info@farmjournalfoundation.org



OUR SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

National thought leadership from our Solutions Mapping Coalition

Farm Journal Foundation seeks input and collaboration from more than 40 stakeholder organizations and coordinates with this group through every phase of the process. We build solutions-focused models that are data driven and address each phase of the workforce pipeline.

Advocating for solutions through our Veterinary Ambassadors

Farm Journal Foundation has been successful in utilizing the strengths of our Veterinary Ambassadors to raise awareness of the issue and our work. They educate policymakers about the impact of veterinary shortages in rural America, and create new, influential champions for this cause.

Providing online education and career resources to the entire veterinary workforce pipeline

Farm Journal Foundation and our Solutions Mapping Coalition have constructed an online education and resource hub to support the career journeys for those interested in a rural or food systems veterinary career. This work includes interactive learning modules for high school students, undergraduate/pre-vet students, veterinary students, and early career practitioners.

FOUR INTERLINKED PROGRAMMATIC AREAS			
HIGH SCHOOL		UNDERGRAD	
Building Capacity for Rural Veterinarians through High School Support		Becoming a Rural and Food System Veterinarian	
VET STUDENT		EARLY CAREER	
Building Capacity for Rural Veterinarians through Veterinary Student Support		Building Capacity for Rural Veterinarians through Early Career Support	

Enabling national, state, and local-level stakeholder groups to build and activate solution opportunities

Our team collaborates with NASDA member states to collect comprehensive data to develop recommendations with long-term sustainability and impact in mind. While state and federal governments have a role to play in addressing this issue, many solutions may be addressed at local levels.

Our approach is pragmatic in order to build momentum for long-term success.



No Cost Enhancement



Low-Cost Addition



Collaborative Innovation



Systematic Long-term Investment

FARMJOURNAL
FOUNDATION

Farm Journal Foundation (FJF) is a farmer-centered nonpartisan organization working to advance agricultural innovation, global food and nutrition security, conservation, and rural economic development. The Foundation believes in a future where agriculture works for everyone – supporting strong farmer livelihoods, business growth, consumer access to nutritious, affordable foods, and the preservation of our country's natural resources. Achieving this vision starts with conversations – bringing all voices to the table to discuss industry challenges and how innovation can unlock solutions that serve us all.



National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Founded in 1916, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) includes members from all 50 states and four territories, NASDA is a nonpartisan association working to influence policy that is beneficial for all regions, people and environments. NASDA gives a voice to agriculture through policy, partnerships and public engagement. Because agriculture leads the way for a healthy and resilient world, NASDA members are committed to representing the interests of everyone in the food supply chain who work every day to provide life's necessities at affordable prices and in a healthy, sustainable manner.

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