

Utah Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program
Fiscal Year 2024 Report
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Animal Industry Division

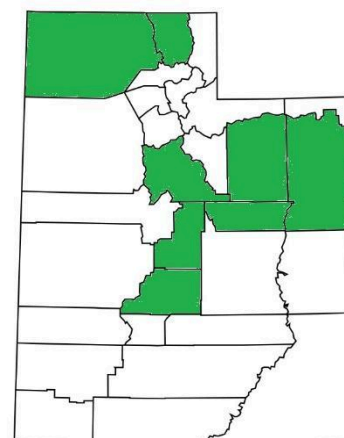
Summary

In FY24, the Utah Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, managed by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food’s Animal Industry Division, received 16 applications for loan repayment. There were no repayments made in FY24 because it was the first year of the program, and applicants were required to practice for one year in a qualifying area. HB 522, Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program Amendments, amended the original requirements of the program, and some applicants were no longer eligible. The first repayments will be made in FY25.

Applicants

Practice Area

The applicants represented eight counties in Utah, and there was one applicant from UDAF. A map of the counties with applicants is shown on the right. Several of these applicants service surrounding counties as well. For example, one applicant from Utah County also services Salt Lake, Tooele, and Juab counties.



The table below shows which qualifying area of practice was indicated on the initial application. The number of applicants for each qualifying area is higher than the total number of applicants because some applicants selected more than one qualifying area of practice.

Qualifying Area of Practice	Number of Applicants
USDA Veterinary Shortage Situation	11
Practice That Includes At Least 30% Livestock Medicine	5
Indian Country	2
501(c)(3) Organization	1
UDAF	1

Loan Balances

The 16 applicants reported a total of \$2.6 million in loans on their initial applications. The average loan balance of the applicants was \$161,321, with a range from \$72,000 to \$246,000.

Years of Practice

Five of the 16 applicants were new graduates. Overall, the applicants averaged 3.5 years in practice, with a range from 0 to 15 years.

Program Activities

Because this was the first year of the program, UDAF developed an initial application form and a repayment certification form. The repayment program was advertised through emails to veterinarians, the quarterly UDAF Animal Health Update newsletter, and social media. Applicants who complete their one year of qualifying practice are sent a certification form and asked to provide loan repayment information to UDAF. They are also asked if they wish to re-apply for the following year.

As of September 25, 2024, UDAF has only received certification forms for four out of the ten veterinarians who have completed one year of qualifying practice. UDAF plans to continue to advertise the program as well as work with applicants to complete their certification forms.

Revenues and Expenditures

As of September 25, 2024, there have been no program expenditures. UDAF is still working with the Department of Finance to make the initial payments for veterinarians who completed their first year of qualifying practice. The table below shows the revenues and expenditures for the program starting in FY24.

Fiscal Year	Revenue	Expenses	Remaining
FY24	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$2,500,000
FY25 YTD	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000

Changes to Program Code and Rules in FY24

Several changes were made to the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program in 2024 through House Bill 522. These changes included:

- Allowing repayments of \$20,000 per year after 12 months of practice instead of \$100,000 after five years.
- Removing areas designated as veterinary shortage situations by USDA through the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) as a qualifying area of practice.
- Adding practices that include at least 30% livestock medicine as defined in Utah Code 4-1-109.

Some veterinarians who had qualified under a USDA veterinary shortage situation no longer qualified under the changes to the rule because while they do livestock medicine, they did not meet the 30% requirement. However, applicants in Utah and Cache counties were able to qualify under the new changes. Because the qualifying areas were changed after the initial application, some were able to receive repayment in FY25, but do not qualify for future years.