



Federal funding is needed to secure programs that directly impact veterinary medicine, animal health and welfare, food safety, animal disease surveillance and public health.

TOP REQUESTS:

- **\$6,500,000 – Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program**
- **\$2,500,000 – Veterinary Services Grant Program**
- **\$2,500,000 – Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank**
- **\$15,000,000 – National Animal Health Laboratory Network**
- **\$901,196,000 – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**
- **\$700,000,000 – Agriculture and Food Research Institute**
- **\$1,286,000,000 – Agricultural Research Service**
- **Funding for Antibiotic Resistance**

3-year contracts to practice in designated VMLRP shortage situations. Veterinarians receive up to \$25,000/year towards educational loans.

Educational debt has doubled since 2003 when congress authorized VMLRP. In 2014, 88 percent of graduating veterinarians faced educational debt averaging \$170,000.

Veterinary Services Grant Program / 7 USC 3101, Section 1415B

AVMA requests \$2,500,000. The President did not request funding in FY17. VSGP is authorized at \$10 million annually (2014 Farm Bill, PL 113-79). It was funded for the first time in FY16. USDA is taking steps to promulgate regulations for the new program.

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
NIFA/REE	2016	\$2,500,000	114-113

Purpose: VSGP grantees will address gaps in veterinary shortage situations by preparing veterinarians for rural practice; supporting veterinary services in shortage situations; facilitating private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities and practices of veterinarians who are providing or have completed service under VMLRP.

Eligibility: State veterinary medical associations, national, allied, or regional veterinary organizations, specialty boards; colleges of veterinary medicine; university research or veterinary medical foundations; departments of veterinary science and comparative medicine; state agricultural experiment stations; state, local, or tribal government agencies; entities that operate a U.S. veterinary clinic providing veterinary services in a rural areas and in response to veterinary shortage situations.

Report language request: “Grantees fulfilling the terms of a contract under 7 USC 3101, Section 1415B shall be members of the National Veterinary Medical Services Corps and members who have fulfilled the terms of their grants shall be alumni of the Corps.” This is already the case for those having completed obligations under 7 USC 3101, Section 1415A.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program / 7 USC 3101, Section 1415A

AVMA requests \$6,500,000, a \$1,500,000 increase over FY16 funding. The President has requested level funding.

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
NIFA/REE	2016	\$5,000,000	114-113
NIFA/REE	2015	\$5,000,000	113-235
NIFA/REE	2014	\$4,790,000	113-79
NIFA/REE	2013	\$4,436,146	113-2
NIFA/REE	2012	\$4,790,000	112-55
NIFA/REE	2011	\$4,790,000	112-10
NIFA/REE	2010	\$4,800,000	111-80

Purpose: Participants provide veterinary medical care primarily for livestock including beef cattle, dairy cows, poultry, swine, dairy goats, meat goats, sheep and equine in USDA designated veterinary shortage situations. They play a vital role in protecting food safety and overseeing the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals, per the FDA’s new Guidance for Industry #209 and #213.

Eligibility: Licensed veterinarians.

Background: Fewer than 60 awards can be made each year because there is not enough funding to permit all of the highest qualified applicants to be selected. Nearly 1,000 veterinarians have applied since 2010. Participants sign

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank / 7 USC 7642, Section 604

AVMA requests \$2,500,000, the full authorized level. The President has requested level funding.

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
NIFA/Extension	2016	\$1,250,000	114-113
NIFA/Extension	2015	\$1,250,000	113-235
NIFA/Extension	2014	\$1,250,000	113-79
NIFA/Extension	2013	\$926,127	113-2
NIFA/Extension	2012	\$1,000,000	112-55
NIFA/Extension	2011	\$980,000	112-10
NIFA/Extension	2010	\$1,000,000	111-80

Purpose: FARAD helps keep milk, meat and eggs free of drug or contaminant residues (e.g. pesticides, minerals, biologic toxins) so that food they is safe for human consumption. FARAD scientists identify, gather, extract, analyze, generate, and extend residue avoidance information to determine scientifically-based withdrawal advice for veterinarians and livestock producers in situations involving accidental contaminations, agro-terrorism or legal extra-label drug use (ELDU) in both major and minor food-producing animal species.

Background: In FY15, FARAD handled 2,752 cases involving millions of animals where chemical residues were a concern.

Veterinarians and livestock producers using FARAD seek regulatory information on uses of food animal drugs. FARAD recommends withholding intervals following ELDU of selected drugs in selected species. Withholding intervals refer to the recommended period of time after an animal was last treated with a drug and before it can be sent to slaughter or its products can be sent to market. This enables food animal veterinarians to effectively treat animals with infectious disease while ensuring food safety.

Fully funding FARAD will allow the program to carry out many vital services which help keep animals healthy and our food supply safe.

FARAD is capable of improving the “real time” determination of withdrawals for legal ELDU in food animal species; providing expert advice in situations involving accidental or intentional contamination of food producing animals; validating higher-level mathematical approaches for determining safe withdrawal periods, validating withdrawal estimates and expanding into contaminant exposure; broadening the DHS data elements and analyses to help mitigate the impact of intentional acts of bioterrorism on the nation’s food supply; and strengthening the global FARAD to ensure that imported foods are safe to eat and expanding the U.S. domestic exports.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network / Agricultural Act of 2014 Section 12105

AVMA requests \$15,000,000.

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
NIFA & APHIS	2016	\$15,000,000 (all budget lines)	114-113

Purpose: NAHLN is an early warning system for emerging and foreign animal diseases and provides surge capacity for the necessary testing during disease outbreaks and during the recovery phase. This surveillance and emergency response system provides critical and ongoing resources for lab testing, information management, quality assurance and the development and validation of new tests. During the recovery phase testing is necessary to establish a “disease free status” which also ensures international trading partners of that status.

NAHLN’s importance was amply demonstrated during the HPAI outbreaks where thousands of samples were tested within hours to ensure depopulation of infected flocks within 24 hours. NAHLN performed surveillance in surrounding areas to halt disease spread, to test premises to determine freedom of disease before repopulation could occur and for international trade to resume.

Funding will expand surveillance and surge capacity. Increases are needed to bolster the number and level of participating state labs; to spur development of infrastructure for electronic transmission of data between sample collectors, labs and state and federal databases; and increase efficiency and effectiveness of lab personnel training and employment both regionally and nationwide.

Participating NAHLN Labs: Federal, university, and state veterinary diagnostic laboratories participating can be found at <https://www.nahln.org/>.

Background: NAHLN was developed in response to the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, and the Homeland Security Presidential Directive-9 of 2004 to “develop nationwide lab networks for food, veterinary, plant health and water quality that integrate existing Federal and State lab resources, are interconnected, and utilize standardized diagnostic protocols and procedures”.

NAHLN support comes from USDA-NIFA’s Food and Agro-Defense Initiative and USDA-APHIS. Note: 34 NAHLN labs receive direct state appropriations of \$100 million toward total lab operation expenses of \$186 million.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

AVMA supports the President’s request: \$901,196,000.

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
APHIS	2016	\$894,415,000	114-113
APHIS	2015	\$874,490,000	113-235
APHIS	2014	\$824,896,000	113-79
APHIS	2013	\$756,214,215	113-2
APHIS	2012	\$816,534,000	112-55
APHIS	2011	\$865,000,000	112-10
APHIS	2010	\$904,953,000	111-80

APHIS’ budget has increased a bit these last few years but much of it has been an accounting adjustment reflecting changes in how rent is paid for facilities. This is not new money that can be used to fund APHIS programs. Increases are needed to support its full array of programs and services as well as for manpower needs.

In FY16, animal health programs are funded at \$327.25 million while plant health programs at \$308.378 million. APHIS programs work to safeguard \$193 billion of livestock, poultry and specialty crops on an annual basis.

APHIS manpower has had a net gain of about 1,000 employees since its low point of employment in 2012. As part of its HPAI preparations for 2016 APHIS was able to hire short-term appointment personnel (about 80 Veterinary Medical Officers and 150 Animal Health Technicians).

Animal disease surveillance and diagnostic testing: APHIS’ animal disease surveillance includes foreign animal disease and transboundary disease response capability. APHIS works to prevent 160 animal diseases from entering the U.S. that would cause economic devastation. Examples of diseases APHIS has recently contended with are Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) and Senecavirus A, a swine disease that causes vesicular lesions that mimic those found in Foot and Mouth Disease.

In FY16 congress provided APHIS with an additional \$5 million for the **National Animal Health Lab Network**. That combined with \$6.7 million typically uses to support the NAHLN brings the agency’s total support to \$12 million. Support comes from four budget lines – veterinary diagnostics; cattle health; equine, cervid, and small ruminant health; and swine health.

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) activities are supported in FY16 with \$3.5 million from the APHIS budget. NAHMS collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on animal health, management, and productivity of U.S.

livestock and poultry. It conducts its commodity-based surveys on a 4-7 year cycle. AVMA supports antibiotic use data collection through NAHMS and requests funding to enhance monitoring for antimicrobial resistant bacteria among livestock. AVMA supports the development of metrics on antibiotic use and stewardship through collaboration between FDA, USDA, and affected commodities.

Animal disease traceability (ADT) makes traceback efforts more efficient, which helps reduce the cost and impact of disease outbreaks. APHIS regulations cover interstate movement requirements for several species, including official identification and Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection or other movement documentation.

National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP): APHIS requires veterinarians be accredited to provide services on behalf of the Federal government. Currently there are 64,034 accredited veterinarians in the U.S. NVAP provides [Training Module 12: Animal Disease Traceability](#) which explains the role of animal health officials in the administration of traceability regulations. The module has been completed 3,517 times since its introduction in 2014. Also, modules are being developed on the responsibilities of veterinarians under the Veterinary Feed Directive.

Feral swine management is being tackled with about \$20 million annually to reduce damage caused by feral swine, and to eliminate this species where feasible. Also, there are concerns that the FMD virus could infect feral hogs. Feral swine in at least 35 states inflict more than \$1.5 billion in damages annually.

Animal Welfare: Protecting vulnerable animals from predation and those covered by the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts (HPA) from inhumane treatment and taking swift enforcement action in response to violations is essential. APHIS is able to attend about 20 percent of all walking and racing horse shows. Still, APHIS inspectors find about a 6 percent violation rate of the HPA compared to the average of 1 percent identified by industry-hired inspectors.

Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is streamlining and improving vet biologics and biotechnology system processes. CVB has improved its processes so new technologies can reach the market faster. CVB continues to increase its capacity to receive submission and received about 1,500 electronically in FY15.

APHIS promotes U.S. agriculture in the international trade by developing and advancing science-based standards with trading partners. America’s agriculture exports are worth more than \$50 billion annually.

USDA’s Research Enterprise

AVMA supports the President’s request, \$700,000,000 for AFRI and \$1,286,000,000 for ARS.

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
AFRI	2016	\$350,000,000	114-113
AFRI	2015	\$325,000,000	113-235
AFRI	2014	\$316,400,000	113-79
AFRI	2013	\$275,500,000	113-2
AFRI	2012	\$265,900,000	112-55
AFRI	2011	\$265,000,000	112-10
AFRI	2010	\$262,400,000	111-80

USDA	FY	Final	P.L.
ARS	2016	\$1,143,825,000	114-113
ARS	2015	\$1,132,000,000	113-235
ARS	2014	\$1,124,003,000	113-79
ARS	2013	\$1,101,346,000	113-2
ARS	2012	\$1,094,647,000	112-55
ARS	2011	\$1,135,501,000	112-10
ARS	2010	\$1,179,639,000	111-80

USDA’s research enterprise – the Agriculture and Food Research Institute (AFRI) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) – plays an essential role in funding food and agricultural research. Both are pivotal pieces of the nation’s science apparatus. Increased funding for food and agricultural research will attract the best scientists and stimulate needed research to address national priorities like animal science, food safety, antimicrobial resistance and public health.

Healthy animals make healthy food, and veterinarians and other scientists are on the frontlines when it comes to keeping our nation's food supply safe. AVMA urges AFRI and ARS to develop vaccines, probiotics and prebiotics, alternatives to antimicrobials as well as new classes of antibiotics for livestock.

USDA’s research enterprise can help find solutions to infectious diseases and related issues that have significant economic impacts on the bovine, porcine, poultry, equine and small ruminant industries of the U.S.

The need for this investment is underscored by outbreaks in 2016 of highly pathogenic H7N8 in Indiana in Indiana where 10 flocks of turkeys (about 400,000 birds) have been depopulated. In 2015, the HPAI outbreak in 15 states led to 42 million chickens and 7.5 million turkeys being culled at a loss to producers of about \$1.6 billion. Also, our country has dealt with two lethal, highly contagious diseases in pigs—PEDV and Porcine Deltacoronavirus—in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

ARS funding can be used to examine antimicrobial resistance in the relationships among microbes and livestock, the environment, and human health. Funding can be used to support research to better understand how bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, and the persistence of antibiotic resistant bacteria in animals, the environment, and food. Through research alternatives to antibiotics (including improved farm management and husbandry practices and vaccines) can be developed. Databases can provide a comprehensive source of accessible, microbial and resistant element sequence data for the food safety and research communities, and effective genetic strategies to reduce the need for antibiotics.

Funding for Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobials are an important part of a veterinarian's toolkit. Veterinarians agree that antimicrobials should be used judiciously and in the best interest of animal health and public health.

AVMA supports USDA funding for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Antimicrobial resistance is a serious health threat to both animals and humans. Advances in animal health care and management have improved food safety and have reduced the need for antimicrobials in food production systems.

USDA is actively involved in surveillance, basic and applied research and education and outreach to assess levels of AMR, and is developing effective mitigation strategies for AMR. USDA is working to develop, refine, and disseminate science-based knowledge about animal health management and production practices that can reduce the threat of AMR.

AVMA supports the president’s request of \$10 million for APHIS activities to address AMR. APHIS’ **National Animal Health Monitoring System** collection of data on antibiotic use. Funding will enhance monitoring for antimicrobial resistant bacteria among livestock. Additionally, we support \$22 million for the **Agricultural Research Service** to address AMR in pathogens of humans and livestock and to seek answers to questions about the relationships among microbes and livestock, the environment and human health.

The **Food and Drug Administration** is working to phase out the use of medically important antimicrobials for growth promotion in food-producing animals, developing a system for monitoring antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals, evaluating new antibacterial drugs for patient treatments, and streamlining clinical trials.

AVMA's & Coalition Partners Requests:

AVMA joins coalitions in support of federal programs to advance food and agricultural research, animal health and welfare, food safety as well as antibiotic resistance. AVMA is a member of the:

- ✓ Animal Agriculture Coalition;
- ✓ Supporters of Agriculture Research;
- ✓ AFRI Coalition;
- ✓ National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research;
- ✓ Friends of ARS;
- ✓ National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science, and
- ✓ S-FAR (U.S. Stakeholder Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance).