HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 730

Requesting the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to study the shortage of large animal veterinarians. Report.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 30, 2009
Agreed to by the Senate, February 24, 2009
Shortage of Large Animal Veterinarians

• Overview
  – National level
  – Commonwealth level
  – VMRCVM

• Our challenge
Large Animal Veterinarians

- Does this only infer a food animal veterinarian in private practice or
  - USDA / FSIS / State Government DVM?
  - An equine practitioner in Middleburg?
  - A mixed animal practitioner in Bedford who sees a few cows, goats, and alpacas?
  - Any practitioner in a rural community?
Shortage of Veterinarians

- Many areas of the profession are concerned about a shortage
  - Small animal
  - Industry
  - Public / Corporate
  - Food Animal
National actions: Congress

• Still not in place

President signs bill assisting veterinary graduates with debt load
Student loan repayment offered to veterinarians working in underserved areas
National Actions: Congress

Legislation addresses critical shortage of veterinarians in public health

Competitive, $1.5 billion grant program proposed
National Actions: AVMA

Food Supply Veterinary Medicine
Protecting America's food supply

The links below will guide you to tools that you and your organization can use to meet one of society's greatest needs—an affordable and healthy food supply.

**Opportunities for students and tools for faculty:**
- Mentorship opportunities for students
- Educational and externship opportunities
- School debt-relief programs
- Tools for faculty
- Food supply veterinary career videos

**Tools for state associations, allied partners and industry:**
- State advocacy
- Recruiting tools
- Testimonials

**Studies and statistics**

Find careers in food supply veterinary medicine
The Commonwealth
75 new DVMs / yr since 1987

Commonwealth of Virginia 1987-2008

- Blue: Veterinarians
- Red: Facilities
- Yellow: Technicians

Year:
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010

Number of Licensed:
- 0
- 500
- 1000
- 1500
- 2000
- 2500
- 3000
- 3500
- 4000

Va Dept of Health Professions
2001 Food Animal Veterinarians
n=151 (51F, 100 M)
45 yrs old
in practice for 16 yrs

2008 Food Animal Veterinarians:
n=140, (53F, 87 M)
48 yrs old
in practice 20 yrs

AMVA:
> 30 % food animal
The hidden subsidy from the good old days

• Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Hog Cholera
  – Federally Accredited Veterinarian
    • Health papers, disease management
  – Govt (Fed and State) supported testing for control and eradication provided a reasonable supplement to salary 60s-80s
  – Livestock market and farm
  – What else was being discussed while Bangs vaccinating the heifers?
Mini-Summary

• National and Commonwealth
  – Decreasing number of practitioners serving food animals in rural communities

• Filling the gap?
  – Pharmaceutical / Biologic companies
  – Local Coop
  – Extension Service
  – Internet
How about the pay?

New Graduate Salaries: VMRCVM

Starting Salaries
VMRCVM Graduates (n=90)

New Graduate Debt

![Graph showing New Graduate Debt from 2006 to 2009]

Student Debt 2006-2009

- Debt at Graduation
- $20,000
- $40,000
- $60,000
- $80,000
- $100,000
- $120,000
- $140,000

Year:
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008

Legend:
- VMRCVM
- AVMA - All graduates
# Dental School Graduates

## Educational Debt for All Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entering Debt</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,367</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,068</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,097</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,369</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,876</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,365</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,731</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduating Debt</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All schools</td>
<td><strong>$105,574</strong></td>
<td><strong>$107,503</strong></td>
<td><strong>$118,748</strong></td>
<td><strong>$122,263</strong></td>
<td><strong>$129,639</strong></td>
<td><strong>$145,465</strong></td>
<td><strong>$156,810</strong></td>
<td><strong>$170,367</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td><strong>$81,586</strong></td>
<td><strong>$85,840</strong></td>
<td><strong>$93,622</strong></td>
<td><strong>$99,553</strong></td>
<td><strong>$104,483</strong></td>
<td><strong>$124,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,047</strong></td>
<td><strong>$186,218</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private &amp; Private State-Related Schools</td>
<td><strong>$132,704</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,060</strong></td>
<td><strong>$147,967</strong></td>
<td><strong>$155,234</strong></td>
<td><strong>$161,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$174,241</strong></td>
<td><strong>$186,218</strong></td>
<td><strong>$204,734</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: ADEA Survey of Dental School Seniors 2008 Graduating Class*

**Data not available**
Medical School Graduates

Student debt statistics

- $139,517 - According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the average educational debt of indebted graduates of the class of 2007. The average debt of graduating medical students increased in 2007 by 6.9 percent over the previous year.
- 75.5 percent of graduates have debt of at least $100,000
- 87.6 percent of graduating medical students carry outstanding loans

Source: AAMC 2007 Graduation Questionnaire
Mini-summary

• Students are in debt
  – But so are medical and dental students
Solutions: AVMA Delphi panels

- Student debt repayment and scholarship for service in areas of need
- Increased activity of Food Animal Practitioners in training of DVM students
- Mentoring initiatives for students
- More food animal faculty at Colleges
- Expanded post-graduate fellowships in food animal
- Paid externship during summer
- Expand centers of excellence
- Marketing food animal practice
- Expanded paid work study positions
Solutions: AVMA Delphi panels

- Expanded job placement
- Focused recruitment of high school students
- Reserve class slots for food animal students
- Increased food animal early in DVM program
- Gov’t supported Reserve Corps of food animal DVMs
- Expanded business and practice management
- Focused recruitment of women into food animal
- Best Business Practices guidelines for food animal practice
- Subsidized consulting in business and practice management
• Tracking
  – Concept: Define and deliver core material, allow students to pick Track to get additional elective experience
  – First designed for Senior Year: late 80s
  – Moved to years 2-4 in late 90s

• Equine
• Food Animal
• Mixed
• Public Corporate
• Small Animal
Scholarships, mentorship

• First scholarship in College was directed to Food Animal Students
  – Clarence and Gertrude Leach Scholarship
• Partnered with VVMA in mentorship program
  – Few food animal mentors
Externships

- Partnered with Academy of Food Animal Practitioners with summer externship in mid 90s
  - Started in 2000
  - 2009: Page county – formally pre-med
- 2 students on Pfizer summer externship
- AABP / ARV / AVC summer and senior externships
Welcome

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 14th at 5:30PM - Rounds!

Don't forget about the Bovine Hoof Trimming Wetlab next Saturday, April 18th!

-New Pictures of our recent Goat Ultrasound Wetlab and Swine Processing Wetlab posted!

Download our Food Animal Student Contacts List (PDF)

Please visit this webpage, our shadowbox near the library or feel free to contact our officers with any questions.
Admissions

- Grades
- GRE
- Experiences
  - Animal
  - Veterinary
  - Biomedical
- References

Class of 2012
176 qualified applicants for 50 positions
GPA 3.66
GRE 1825
39 F, 11 M

“I feel it is my obligation to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth, to admit the 50 students most likely to complete the curriculum”
Admissions

• The story of Bob
  – Worked in the hospital
  – Applied to VMRCVM and other schools
    • Not admitted to VMRCVM
    • Received degree at another US school
  – Now working on Food Animals in Virginia
    • Personal level - this hurts
    • Global level - he is contributing to the Food Animal Shortage in Va
VMRCVM
Classes of 2010-2013

Accepted
N=197

Rejected
N=293
Our job

(i) determine the supply and demand for large animal veterinarians in Virginia, including by region of the Commonwealth

(ii) ascertain the causes of the shortage of such veterinarians and recommend immediate and long-term alternatives to ameliorate the demand
Our job

(iii) address the salary and working conditions of large animal veterinarians relative to the debt burden of recent graduates

(iv) propose incentives to encourage students to choose veterinary medicine as a career and large animal practice

(v) establish a profile of applicants to veterinary medicine school;
Our Job

(vi) determine the efficacy of increasing the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's capacity
(vii) consider such other factors that may influence the practice chosen by veterinarians
In this regard, students and practicing veterinarians alike who had been raised in rural areas were found to be significantly more likely to anticipate, or to be currently engaged in, mixed or large animal practice, while individuals raised in more urban areas were found to favor small animal practice.
• Instead, no statistically significant differences were found in either the anticipated or actual incomes of veterinary students and practicing veterinarians, respectively, when related to their specific type of private practice.
  
  – Nevertheless, to the extent to which a belief in such income differentials, extant among students and practitioners, is allowed to perpetuate, future veterinarians may very well be dissuaded from practicing mixed or large animal veterinary medicine because of financial considerations.
..... it would appear that if the pattern of intraoccupational career movement from large to companion animal practice is to be reversed or blunted, then the conceptualization found in many pre-veterinary and veterinary schools, concerning mixed or large animal veterinarians as lacking the appropriate medical aura and professional prestige vis-a-vis companion animal practitioners, will have to be remedied.
Back to Snizek and Bryant: 1976

• And finally, one cannot help but notice the striking similarity between the plight of farmers in securing veterinary services and that faced by rural communities in attempting to obtain adequate human health services.
Summary

• **Geography**
  – Rural practitioners tend to be from rural areas

• **Generations**
  – Work in groups and are community oriented, not very interested in an 120 hr work week, desire a mentor

• **Gender**

• **Greenbacks**
  – Debt vs net worth vs cash flow

• **Government**
  – Current environment what is feasible?

  – Is this a rural health care issue?