



Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

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AAVMC Member Institution Food Animal Career Incentive Programs

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The AAVMC has been asked what veterinary colleges are doing to help graduate more individuals going into food animal medicine. This paper was developed as a result of a request to the AAVMC member veterinary medical colleges and schools in the United States and Canada asking them to describe the programs they have in place to recruit, retain, and mentor veterinary medical students interested in food animal careers. This paper describes those many and varied programs and can be used to inform and educate public policy makers concerning this issue.

Colorado State University

Food Animal Veterinary Career Incentive Program (FAVCIP)*--The over reaching goal of this program is to create a sustainable source of future veterinarians for underserved disciplines and geographic regions central to the future of safe and successful food and fiber animal production. Undergraduate students with a strong interest in pursuing veterinary careers in food animal discipline will be encouraged to follow the FAVCIP curriculum and program requirements as they complete their Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Sciences at CSU. Students who qualify for this program will receive specialized academic and career counseling to facilitate enrollment in FAVCIP courses. FAVCIP students will apply to the Professional Veterinary Medical (PVM) program through the regular admissions process and will be expected to meet all regular preveterinary and application requirements. Criteria for admissions will be the same as for all other candidates; however, FAVCIP candidates will be eligible for five reserved positions in each class of the PVM program.

Non-Colorado resident students enrolled as undergraduates in FAVCIP may be eligible to convert their domicile to Colorado prior to applying to the PVM program. FAVCIP students admitted to the PVM program *may* qualify for full tuition scholarships from participating food and fiber animal producer organizations as available. If a FAVCIP student accepts a full PVM tuition scholarship, upon graduation he/she will be required to work as a food or fiber animal veterinarian in a geographic area identified by the supporting producer organization for each year of tuition scholarship support. Any agreement to this effect will be made between the student and the producer organization, and will not be officiated by CSU.

**This program is not a guarantee route for entry into the PVM program.*

University of Montreal

First year professional program students have one week of intensive training in September of their first year. They spend one week in regional poultry, swine, or cattle industry farms. They work in teams with the student, farm manager, and the veterinarians.

There is a voluntary mentorship program during the first and second years of the professional program along with the summer between the junior and senior year that offers students the possibility of up to 12 weeks of a farm becoming familiar with farm management and production. This program is supported by grants from the Federation of Milk Producers.

Students who have a swine, poultry, or bovine interest may join groups where faculty are involved with organized meetings, seminars, and workshops.

Western University of Health Sciences

The admissions process uses a two “threshold” process. Files are reviewed by the faculty and acceptable candidates over a threshold are put into the “interview” pool. Candidates who are interviewed and found to be acceptable are then put into an “admit” pool. Candidates are selected from the “admit” pool to meet the college’s diversity goals, which include food animal interest. So far offers have been extended to all applicants in the “admit” pool who have indicated a food animal or public practice interest.

University of Florida

UF does not at this time have a targeted program. That is likely to change in the near future. Meetings have been held between the college and the state’s cattlemen president to initiate a better recruitment and admission program. Initial thoughts are to work directly with the cattlemen and UF’s Department of Animal Science with a strategy to develop a plan allowing Animal Science faculty control over admitting four qualified students on a yearly basis from their program that they believe are the best positioned to support the animal production industries as veterinarians.

Tufts University

Tufts has one contract with the state of Maine that pays \$12,000 per year to a student who agrees to return to Maine to engage in food supply veterinary medicine. It has been difficult in the past to find a student to fill this seat.

Kansas State University

Rural Veterinarian Debt Forgiveness Legislation—The state of Kansas has available a \$20,000 per year loan for five incoming students for four years plus extra training in regulatory, emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases, and public health. The \$20,000 per year debt forgiveness is for up to four years if they serve in rural Kansas and support the livestock industry.

KSU CVM has \$2,000 scholarships available for up to ten students in each class based on their career plans/annual reports to serve food animal veterinary medicine. With the onset of the Rural Veterinarian Debt Forgiveness Legislation, KSU will begin awarding only five of these scholarships.

KSU CVM has partners with the Association of Rural Veterinarians and the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association to provide mentorships for veterinary students.

Aggressive recruiting of food animal/food supply veterinarians to serve as teachers, researchers, outreach providers, and role models for food animal veterinary medicine. Over the past year 25 faculty have been recruited who are directly involved in food safety and security primarily in beef production.

KSU CMV has birthing center demonstrations at the Kansas State Fair and the American Royal to showcase food animal veterinary medicine.

Feedlot certificate program is available for students. Those students take extra courses during the summers plus advanced rotations in feedlot medicine. This certificate notation is designated on their diplomas and serves as a value-added credential when it comes to employers considering new graduates.

Students can post web-based pictures and brief biographical sketches and express their interest in food animal veterinary medicine. Potential employers can view this site and contact students for interviews.

The Ohio State University

Institute for Food Animal Veterinary Medicine—This institute includes over 25 faculty from the Columbus campus (clinical medicine, epidemiology, and public health), the Marysville ambulatory clinic (strictly large animal faculty with primary food animal interest), Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (food animal health research program), College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (animal sciences and food sciences), College of Medicine (infectious and zoonotic diseases), and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (biosecurity).

There is a partnership with the School of Public Health to offer Masters in Public Health degrees for post-baccalaureate students who are pre-veterinary students, veterinary students, or veterinarians.

The college partners with the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences to recruit students to veterinary medicine, cultivate those students with a food animal interest, reserve a place for these students in an upcoming veterinary class, and retain them in food animal medicine by continuing to promote their interest while in the professional veterinary curriculum.

An estimated 80% of the entering animal science students list pre-veterinary as the reason for enrolling in Animal Sciences. Therefore, most of the recruiting of pre-veterinary students with interests in food animals will be focused on Animal Science students.

Internship programs for Animal Science students where the students rotate through food animal rotations including the Marysville ambulatory practice, in-house food animal medicine and surgery, and through Veterinary Preventive Medicine utilizing the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Farms.

Purdue University

All preveterinary students are exposed to a full range of veterinary careers, including food animal practice, in a required course on “Careers in Veterinary Medicine.” Preveterinary students are welcomed into the Animal Science Department and are assigned a major in Preveterinary Medicine.

The admissions committee makes a deliberate attempt to identify applicants with an interest in food animal careers and to offer them positions in the entering class. Purdue’s early admissions Veterinary Scholars program identifies exceptional high school seniors entering the preveterinary program and offers a position in veterinary school to them upon completion of a BS degree. Many of the Veterinary Scholars have been students with food animal career interests and they have earned their BS degree in Animal Science.

The Food Animal Club provides exposure to many role models of food animal veterinarians, field trips, and opportunities to attend national meetings of specialty groups such as AABP and AASV.

Ontario Veterinary College

OVC does not have a formal recruitment or admissions initiative for students interested in food animal practice. However, those students who express an interest in food animal practice are linked with private practitioners for summer employment opportunities and external rotations in their final year.

University of Georgia

The college is working in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences to develop an early admissions program, the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program. This currently is a proposal and has not yet been approved. The highlights of the proposal include:

- Encourage talented high school students from rural areas to attend the University of Georgia for their undergraduate education
- Encourage undergraduate students interested in animal agriculture to pursue a course of study at the University of Georgia
- Increase the enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
- Provide learning opportunities in animal agriculture for students while they are undergraduates to help maintain their interest in animal agriculture. To devise a plan of academic work, experience, and mentoring in undergraduate studies and veterinary medical education that meets specific needs of animal agriculture.
- Provide active mentorship within the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine for undergraduate students interested in animal agriculture
- Increase the number of applicants to the College of Veterinary Medicine from rural backgrounds
- Provide a continuous supply of new veterinary graduates with skills, experience and expertise in food animal medicine and management. These new graduates will immediately be able to provide valuable service to modern animal agriculture and will be prepared to continually grow and improve as health professionals

Virginia/Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

VA/MD CVM spends nearly \$200,000 per year in recruiting scholarships, most of which are for students interested in food animal rural practice. In addition the college recently commenced a high school visitation program in which veterinary students visit high schools in their hometowns to recruit students into the profession. So students who are from a rural background would be recruiting prospective veterinary students from the same geographic background. In addition there are currently discussions with the Virginia Food Animal Academy in which veterinarians would visit high schools to promote and recruit students for rural practice.

VA/MD CVM has a food animal track commencing in the 2nd year of the professional curriculum. The college has a very active Food Animal Practitioner's Club where the food animal faculty is committed to full support including after-hours activities. Every Saturday morning during fall and spring semesters students go to the dairy barns to do reproductive examinations.

Michigan State University

Production Medicine Scholars Pathway—MSU CVM's Large Animal Clinical Sciences has formed a partnership with the MSU Department of Animal Science to launch a course of study that aims to prepare undergraduates for a career in herd-based production medicine and agricultural veterinary practice. CVM will dedicate up to ten seats each year to such students. There are no requirements to get into the Production Medicine Scholars Pathway program other than students must be enrolled as majors in animal science at MSU and have a passion and an interest in food animals. Of the 120 credits required to graduate, 116 are spelled out. Based on a letter of intent that interested students submit at the beginning of their junior year, they may receive early admission to CVM with the proviso that they must complete their bachelor's degree in animal science with a concentration in production medicine, maintain a 3.20 grade-point average through the rest of their undergraduate studies, and meet with their animal science advisor and the director of admissions in the CVM every semester to assess progress and discuss plans. Fifteen to 20 applicants are anticipated each year.

Students who are majoring in animal science also may apply to the CVM through the regular veterinary admission process. The advantage of the Production Medicine Scholars Pathway is the preparation the students receive for their career, including mentoring and participation in special field trips and seminars. Production Medicine Scholars compete for admission among a smaller pool of applicants than in the general admissions process and will receive an early decision about admission to the CVM.

MSU also has a Food Animal Club which is organized to give veterinary students enhanced education in issues important to those interested in production medicine whether in cattle, small ruminants, swine, camelids, or poultry.

University of Minnesota

Veterinary Food Animal Scholars Program (VetFAST)—This program was designed to meet the shortage of veterinarians trained to work with dairy cows, beef cattle, swine, poultry, sheep and goats both in rural areas, the food industry, and state and federal governmental agencies. VetFAST allows students to:

- Get an “admissions decision” by the UM CVM at the end of their first year in college instead of during their junior or senior year
- Complete both their B.S. and D.V.M. degrees in seven years instead of eight
- Waive the requirement to take the GRE as part of the admission process for the D.V.M. program
- Benefit from mentorships with veterinary faculty and other D.V.M. students
- Pursue summer veterinary and industry work opportunities
- Get scholarships and financial support through summer internships

To qualify for admission to the VetFAST program, high school students must:

- Have a strong interest in food animal medicine—dairy, beef, swine, poultry and small ruminants
- Rank in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class
- Score 25 or higher (composite score) on the ACT
- Provide a letter of support from a practicing veterinarian

Freshman students enroll at the UM with an Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary major in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. During the first year of college students must meet minimum academic and coursework requirements. When students complete their freshman year they:

- Submit their VetFAST application for admission to the D.V.M. program
- Continue their pre-veterinary coursework in the Animal Science major after acceptance in VetFAST
- Begin their veterinary studies during their fourth year of college instead of waiting to receive their B.S. degree

At the end of the freshman year, when applying to the VetFAST program students must have:

- Experience related to food animal medicine. This can include experience on a farm, participation in 4-H or FFA, or involvement in relevant activities during their first year at the university
- A letter of support from their advisor or a faculty member in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences
- A letter of support from a veterinarian
- A minimum grade point average of 3.40 at the end of their first year

To remain a VetFAST participant and automatically gain admission to the D.V.M. program in their fourth year, students must:

- Continue to take animal production courses; at least two of these are required during the last two years of their pre-veterinary program
- Complete all required pre-veterinary coursework with a minimum grade point average of 3.40 for the first three years

The CVM is expected to admit three to five students to VetFAST each year. Participants will be selected based on interviews with the CVM admissions committee.

University of Saskatchewan

The Alberta Chair in Beef Cattle Health and Productivity has recently been filled. This chair is designed to encourage and support student interest in food animal practice, particularly cattle practice.

The Food Animal Teaching Building is just being completed. This facility will provide an outstanding new teaching facility for surgery, internal medicine and theriogenology teaching laboratories related to food animals.

Their outcomes assessment program should provide better feedback on why many recent graduates are going into large and mixed animal practice but not staying there. There are multi-factorial reasons, but there is a need to better define the issue and a need to work with practitioners and groups such as the AABP to address these factors.

The school is working proactively with the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners to recruit and encourage students to attend their meetings.

Oklahoma State University

Veterinarians for Rural Oklahoma Program—There is considerable interest in increasing the number of veterinarians for private practice careers in rural Oklahoma. Following is a plan that entails several components or phases. Keys to this plan are identification of prospective students, educating them about the profession, strengthening their academic preparation for the veterinary curriculum and mentoring them into rural practice careers. The final phase is intended to retain veterinarians in rural practice.

- Phase 1: Identify, mentor, and recruit high school students enrolled at rural high schools. This phase has been implemented and included a summer camp held on campus in July.
- Phase 2: Refinement of the admissions program—Additional points have always been given to applicants with background in animal agriculture. The admissions program is now being refined to include SKAs and an early admission component.
- Phase 3: Mentoring of veterinary students for rural practice—Faculty and student organizations have been proactive. Very successful rural practitioners are invited to campus to speak with the students. The largest beef cattle case load in the country is maintained by the OSU along with a 640 acre ranch for horses and cattle. All veterinary students are required to take core courses in food animal production and medicine.
- Phase 4: Incentives—Oklahoma has a scholarship/load forgiveness program for physicians that practice in communities of 7,500 or less. The Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, working with stakeholder groups, will introduce legislation this year to amend the act making veterinarians eligible for the program. The legislation is expected to be enacted with little opposition.
- Phase 5: Retention of Veterinarians in Rural Practice—This is the most important phase and the hardest to accomplish. With assistance from the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, programs at the state meeting addressing this issue have been scheduled. Future speakers will address consolidation and regionalization of rural practices.

Louisiana State University

Louisiana has for veterinary students a two year old loan program that is administered by the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission. It is designed to make loans to Louisiana residents who are veterinary students enrolled in certain veterinary programs. The intent of the legislature was to provide for an adequate supply of veterinarians who will practice food animal veterinary medicine in the state of Louisiana. The program currently is set up as a forgivable loan program. The loan targets students with a food animal interest and the loan is forgiven if a student takes a job in a rural practice in the state. To date, no one has taken advantage of the program.

University of Pennsylvania

PennVet New Bolton Center offers an undergraduate food animal externship summer experience to undergraduate students from Mid-Atlantic and New England schools. This is an eight week externship, funded by PennVet, for aspiring students who would like to investigate a career in food animal veterinary medicine. They can rotate through dairy, swine, equine and ambulatory, with rotations modified to target the particular student's needs and interests. Students do receive a stipend during this time to cover room and board costs.

Every year the admissions department visits many Mid-Atlantic and New England schools to recruit undergraduates to apply to PennVet. For applicants who express an interest in large animals, a day-long interview and tour event is held at New Bolton Center. If a student has a particular species interest they are paired up with a faculty person to have some one-on-one time to discuss their interests and answer any questions they may have regarding their career aspirations.

PennVet is in the process of having an external group provide advice and input into the future direction of the food animal training program for veterinary students.

Any veterinary student has the opportunity to obtain hands-on training in the day-to-day operations of the PennVet dairy, poultry, and swine facilities. This opportunity gives those students with limited large animal exposure a more solid foundation and appreciation of production aspect of the livestock industry which is beneficial when communicating with the producers once they become food animal practitioners.

Due to the direct industry support for their swine medicine program, PennVet has placed the largest number of recent grad swine veterinarians of any veterinary school in North America. This model of close working with industry may be beneficial for other species to follow in recruiting and developing species specific food animal veterinarians.

Cornell University

The admissions policy for the Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine embraces diversity enhancement to attract qualified special interest groups who may contribute to the future availability of professionally and scientifically trained people working in food supply medicine and veterinary public health. This effort began in about 2002 and the college now admits about a dozen students per year with stated and demonstrated interest for fruitful careers in production medicine.

To address recruiting and retention efforts Cornell has engaged select veterinary students in their first year of training in a series of externships. Through an 8-week Food Animal Medicine Experience (FAME), six students each summer are chosen through a competitive application process and provided with an economical stipend of \$3000. They rotate through three practicum experiences: A dairy farm, a progressive food animal veterinary practice focusing on herd health issues, and the laboratories of the animal Health Diagnostic Center and Quality Milk Production Service at Cornell University. Field trips and seminars to milk processing plants, meatpacking facilities, and retail centers are included. In addition, students participate in a field-based research project that addresses a real-world health problem from multiple perspectives. The FAME program is a partnership between select private veterinary clinics, the Northeast Dairy Producers Association, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Cornell's Summer Dairy Institute (SDI) accelerates the careers of interested fourth year veterinary students and recent graduates in advanced techniques necessary to serve modern production agriculture. The goal of the SDI is that graduates will provide a greater value to their employers, themselves, the dairy industry, and the food consuming public. The program is 8-weeks in duration and participants live, dine, and learn together in a cohesive unit so that they will form a network of colleagues that will serve them well into the future. SDI includes advanced classroom learning not available in traditional veterinary curricula, in addition to many hands-on activities that take place in concert with support of local agribusinesses. Topics include, for example, reproduction, financial decision-making, cow comfort and welfare, Spanish language instruction, biosecurity, and nutrition.

Cornell has recently had a curriculum change with most notably the availability of new elective courses in dairy production medicine and the introduction of clinical pathways. Examples of new courses made available in the last three years are Veterinarians and Food Production Systems, Investigating Herd Problems, Applied Dairy nutrition, Microbial Safety of Animal Based Foods, and Herd Health and Biosecurity using the NYSCHAP model. The clinical pathways were developed to allow students to acquire more specialized clinical knowledge, including dairy production medicine skills, while still providing a broad foundation of learning. Different than tracking, all students still rotate through core disciplines in large and companion animals, but students with production animal interests are now afforded about 50% more time to engage in professionally relevant learning opportunities at Cornell and through externships.

North Carolina State University

NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine has the Food Animal Scholars Program. The goals of the program are to aid in the recruitment and mentoring of students with a sincere interest in lifelong careers in animal agriculture for the undergraduate programs in the Departments of Animal Science and Poultry Science and to produce graduates dedicated to lifelong careers of professional service to animal agriculture as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Up to six students and two alternates will be chosen in the spring of each year to enter the Food animal Scholars Pool. Eligible students will be those who are majors in Departments of Animal Science or Poultry Science and who are in the spring semester of their sophomore year. One position will be reserved for a swine-focused scholar and one position for a poultry-focused scholar. Beyond this, there is no

overall “species” or departmental quota for Food animal Scholars Pool membership. Each year up to six students from the Food Animal Scholars Pool will be admitted to the next class entering the CVM upon successful completion of all requirements and attainment of required standards. At the discretion of the Food Animal Scholars Steering and Mentoring Committee, consideration may be given to recent graduates, graduate students, and Animal Science students at NC A&T State University.

The Food Animal Scholars and Steering & Mentoring Committee will select the members of the Scholars Pool. The committee will monitor each pool annually and insure that each student has been assigned a mentor. Each student selected to join a Scholars Pool will be assigned two faculty mentors, one from either the Department of Animal Science or Poultry Science, and one from the Department of Population Health and Pathobiology. These two faculty mentors will work closely with the students to advise them, monitor their progress and commitment, and facilitate additional training opportunities, such as summer internships and employment. At the time of selection of the new Food Animal Scholars Pool, each previous Pool’s members will be re-evaluated, with membership changes made by the steering committee, if necessary. Students in the Scholars Pool who do not meet minimum academic standards for admission to the CVM, are not making progress toward completion of a degree, or who do not continue to demonstrate a sincere interest in supporting animal agriculture may be replaced with alternates at the same stage of training. Completion of the undergraduate degree is required for entry into the CVM under this program, and students are expected to have an approved Plan of Study showing how this will be accomplished.

The Steering Committee will submit the names of up to six members of the next Food animal Scholars Pool to the CVM Admissions Committee in the fall of each year as part of the admissions process for the next class. Students must submit all application materials. Upon admissions to the CVM, students from the Food Animal Scholars Pool will be designated “Food Animal Scholars” for their year of graduation. Upon entry to the CVM, each Food animal Scholar will submit a formal plan for the entire four-year curriculum as part of the Food animal Focus Area under the supervision of faculty mentors. This plan will specify selective and elective courses, summer work experiences, externships, special projects, and senior rotations. Students will have the opportunity to concentrate in swine, poultry, beef, dairy, small ruminant, mixed practice, and potentially other areas.

Iowa State University

The Veterinary Student Mixed Animal Recruitment Team (VSMART), a student based organization, was started in the fall of 2004. This came about after a survey conducted by the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and the Iowa State University Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine determined that Iowa will be in need of at least 120 food animal veterinarians by the year 2008. The survey also found that the number of students who are graduating from the Iowa State University CVM and remaining in the state of Iowa to practice food animal medicine is not meeting Iowa’s critical demand. Increasing the retention of veterinarians in the state of Iowa, especially in the area of food animal production medicine, is a primary goal for VSMART. The long-term goal is to reduce the shortage of food animal veterinarians nation wide.

VSMART wants to increase total enrollment of students at Iowa State University CVM who are predominantly interested in rural, mixed animal medicine by 5% each year.

VSMART is a club that consists of an executive team and over 75 student members. VSMART works to recruit, mentor and educate students interested in becoming mixed animal veterinarians. The group not only functions to educate fellow veterinary students about food or mixed animal veterinary medicine, but also targets interested high school and undergraduate students. Members of VSMART actively recruit current high school and undergraduate students into a career in mixed and food animal medicine through interactive presentations and displays at high school, local, and state events. At these events, VSMART discusses with the local, rural veterinarian the importance of being a positive mentor and promoting the profession accurately. Together, local veterinarians and VSMART help to provide opportunities and encouragement to students interested in mixed/food animal medicine through interactive presentations and workshops.

VSMART also works towards recruiting current veterinary students into mixed animal practice through speakers and a series of guest lectures, in addition to taking field trips to rural veterinary clinics throughout the state of Iowa. VSMART presented to the Student American Veterinary Medical Association House of Delegates in 2005 and reached two delegates from every veterinary college in the U.S. VSMART has also tried to establish chapters at other veterinary schools, and a goal is to establish a second VSMART chapter this year.

University of California, Davis

A number of avenues are being explored to interest future students in veterinary medicine and Food Supply Veterinary Medicine in particular. A program “Animal Ambassadors” has been in place for 5 years. The program is designed to introduce children in 3rd through high school to the value of animals as well as basic information about animal species. Over 10,000 students have participated in this modular program which is provided as a package to teachers at the respective grade level.

The California Veterinary Medical Association has established a mentoring program with the School to bring 4-H and FFA students to tour the School of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, this mentoring program provides these same students with weekend tours and experiences at a variety of veterinary practices. High school students from rural communities apply for internships at the Veterinary Medical Teaching and Research Center in Tulare. The high school students are given projects under supervision of faculty and staff which require them to handle animals, collect samples, conduct laboratory tests, write up results and present to faculty for evaluation. About 90% of these students go on to college and a number are now in veterinary school. Other high school students may choose to work with scientists/staff in the Dairy Food Safety Laboratory where they work on projects in animal health and well-being, public health, environmental health, food safety or food defense. A similar program is available to Community College students as well as undergraduate students from around the United States. It has been very successful in attracting students to veterinary school to become food supply veterinarians. Most of them are seeking careers in dairy practice.

The Student Veterinary Medical Association has a group of volunteers who travel to high schools throughout the Davis area as well their home towns during breaks giving insights into the opportunities in the profession. Approximately, 20 veterinary students participate each year at the Livestock Birthing Center at the California State Fair. These students also provide veterinary services and collect samples for mandatory testing of the different show animals under the supervision of School faculty at the Fair.

The admission process takes a serious look at underserved areas of the profession and strives to include those with interests in areas such as food supply veterinary medicine. The Committee usually identifies 8-10 students with livestock or poultry interests and as many as 25 others with mixed animal practice interests. The School designates scholarship money and additional funding from pharmaceutical companies provides the opportunity for students to receive \$2,500 for five weeks over the summer to spend in a dairy environment. The summer before starting veterinary school is spent on a dairy farm participating in routine dairy production activities and management. The second and third summers are spent with dairy veterinarians gaining experience with the different practice models.

After taking basic courses such as anatomy, pathology, microbiology, immunology, epidemiology, parasitology, medicine and surgery, students are able to track into food supply tracks or mixed animal tracks. They take electives that prepare them for a fourth year where they spend all of the time in a food animal environment. Individual large animal medicine, surgery and reproduction are provided to students in 4 to 8 week blocks at Davis. The Veterinary Medical Teaching and Research Center in Tulare provides 4 and 8 week rotations for the students, where they participate in a large-herd practice. In addition to the regular clinical duties, students develop and work on projects (in an area of interest to them) related to dairy cow or calf health or performance, nutrition and/or cow comfort and present those projects to faculty and staff. All food supply veterinary students are required to rotate through an externship with an established food animal veterinarian to understand the role of the practitioner and the kinds of services they can offer to animal production agriculture clients.

Those students with interests in poultry medicine usually 1 to 3 per class, are provided with clinical practice activities with faculty on commercial poultry operations. They also spend 4 week blocks of time in a poultry diagnostic laboratory setting.

Post graduate professional degree programs and residencies at Tulare and Davis are available for the students. Most of students enroll in dual degree programs such as the Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine or Masters in Public Health. The students are required to conduct a research project before graduating with these degrees. Some students chose to continue on with a PhD program in areas such as nutrition, reproduction, epidemiology, microbiology, pathology, toxicology, and ecosystem health.

