



Rural & Food Systems Veterinary Shortage Solutions:



State and Community Readiness Program



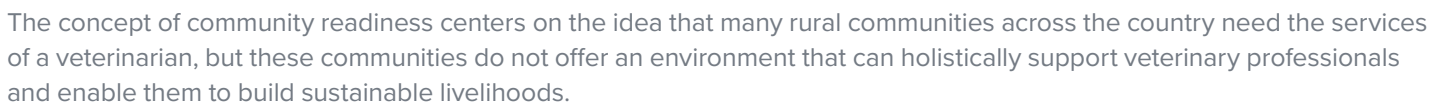
SUMMARY



Over the past two years, Farm Journal Foundation has been proud to the creation of the Veterinary Workforce Solutions Program, which seeks to address systemic challenges within the veterinary sector and drive long-term change – ultimately creating a healthier, more vibrant industry that supports veterinary professionals , the farming communities that rely on them, and protects our food system from disease. Our previous and current work has already produced tangible and successful results. Through support and stakeholder input, we have developed a new Veterinary Education Pipeline Program of professional development content for aspiring veterinarians, to encourage them to embark on careers in the food-systems sector and support them in building strong rural practices. We have also engaged more than 50 stakeholders from across the veterinary, agriculture, and education sectors in our Veterinary Solutions Mapping Coalition, building deeper awareness about veterinary shortages across multiple industries and encouraging action among key stakeholders.



HOW THIS PROJECT WORKS



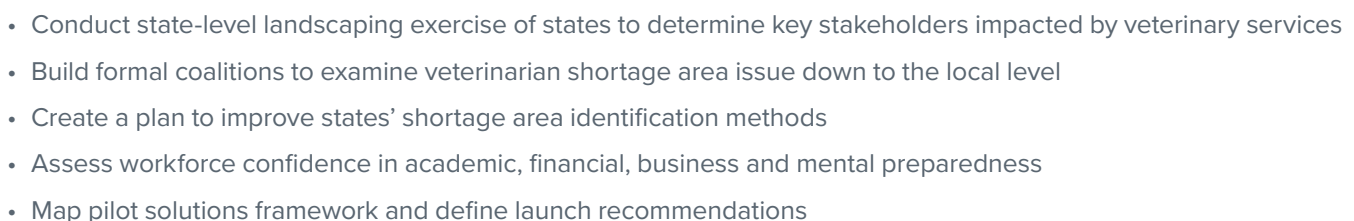
The concept of community readiness centers on the idea that many rural communities across the country need the services of a veterinarian, but these communities do not offer an environment that can holistically support veterinary professionals and enable them to build sustainable livelihoods.



To address these issues, Farm Journal Foundation proposes building a State and Community Readiness Infrastructure, working with stakeholders at state and local levels to develop solutions to better identify shortage areas and build support for veterinary livelihoods in local communities. This collaborative approach would provide the framework for self-help readiness models that will ultimately support the financial sustainability of veterinary practices and the personal well-being goals of veterinarians in concert with the needs of the community.



This program will offer two phases that include:

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- Conduct state-level landscaping exercise of states to determine key stakeholders impacted by veterinary services
 - Build formal coalitions to examine veterinarian shortage area issue down to the local level
 - Create a plan to improve states' shortage area identification methods
 - Assess workforce confidence in academic, financial, business and mental preparedness
 - Map pilot solutions framework and define launch recommendations

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

PHASE I		
Part 1	Part 2	Part 3
Education Resource Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and veterinarians engaged • Determine academic and career readiness • Determine level of business acumen 	Stakeholder Coalition Checklist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure key leadership in the state to lead an initiative • Collect and analyze state data and resources • Educate stakeholders on key statistics and factors impacting the veterinarian 	Assessment Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying gaps in programs and resources • Identifying technical assistance opportunities • In-person stakeholder summit

Key Collaborators and Beneficiaries:

- State Departments of Agriculture
- Veterinary Organizations
- Colleges of Veterinary Medicine
- Livestock organizations

2024 Pilot Partners:

3 States, USDA, CDC

Phase Timeline:

- Phase I: 4 – 6 months
- Phase II: 4 – 6 months

PHASE II
Solutions Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling participating assistance partners to be self-supporting • Facilitating kickoff of working groups

ONLINE EDUCATION RESOURCE HUB

In spring 2024, Farm Journal Foundation piloted our educational platform to support undergraduate students on their journey toward establishing or joining food-animal veterinary practices. Spring pilot universities included: Auburn, Lincoln Memorial, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Penn State, Kansas State, Texas Tech. Summer pilots include Tuskegee and USDA/APHIS. This work has included initiating three interactive learning modules:

THREE INTERLINKED PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS Planning for Success in Veterinary Medicine During Undergraduate Education	VETERINARY STUDENTS Building Business Basics as a Veterinary Student	EARLY CAREER PRACTITIONERS Engaging the Future as an Early Career Veterinarian
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For more information on the program and education modules, visit www.RuralVeterinaryWorkforceSolutions.org



Farm Journal Foundation (FJF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., that brings together stakeholders from across the agricultural spectrum – farmers, industry leaders, policymakers, students, and consumers. The organization provides education on how innovative agriculture can solve some of the world’s biggest challenges and works with leaders to drive long-term positive action. The Foundation focuses on four main issues: global food and nutrition security, conservation and sustainability, rural development, and agricultural research and innovation.

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National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Founded in 1916, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) 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.