

Addressing the Shortage of Veterinarians

Whereas livestock are central to rural Minnesota's economy and culture, with tens of thousands of family farms caring for cattle, hogs, turkey, sheep, and other livestock across the state.

Whereas regular care from licensed professionals is required to secure the health of not only individual animals, but also that of animals on neighboring farms, wild animals, and people.

Whereas the expertise of a veterinarian is required in other roles across the agricultural sector including for youth livestock shows, research, public health, and nutrition science.

Whereas there is a severe shortage of large animal veterinarians in Minnesota and across the nation. The United States Department of Agriculture lists shortage areas in 46 states, including 15 in Minnesota encompassing much of the state.

Therefore, be it resolved that MFU supports state and federal action to meaningfully address the veterinarian shortage including by:

- 1) Establishing a new Certified Veterinary Technician license to perform basic veterinary services in clinics and on farms.
- 2) Expand and create new training programs for students seeking to go into veterinary practice.
- 3) Funding scholarships and other incentives for veterinarians to practice on large animals in rural Minnesota.

And be it further resolved that onerous regulations requiring veterinary oversight be revisited with the aim of empowering farmers to care for their livestock, allowing veterinarians to focus on their practice, and protecting public health.