OPPORTUNITIES IN VETERINARY MEDICINE…THERE ARE NO BOUNDARIES!

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Today's veterinarians

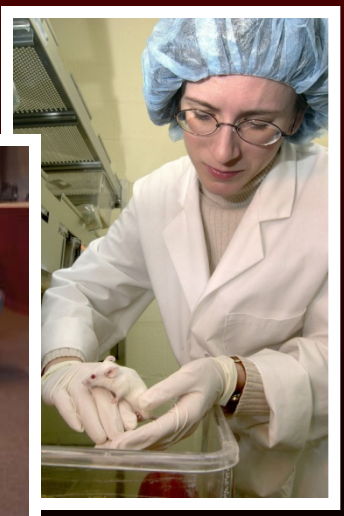
- Only doctors taught to protect health of both animals and people
- There are over 80,000 veterinarians in active practice

Protecting the health of animals and society

- Private clinical practice
- Teaching & research
- Regulatory medicine
- Public health
- Military service
- Other activities

Private clinical practice

Teaching and Research



Regulatory Medicine

- USDA & State Agencies

FOOT-AND-MOUTH

U.S. veterinarians join British in battle against animal virus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Fifteen American veterinarians arrived in Britain yesterday, ready to help in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease and eager for a first look at an illness that has not been seen in the United States since 1929.

The Americans are providing vital reinforcements as the British government tries to shorten the time between diagnosing and slaughtering infected animals. Scientists say speeding up that process is key to eradicating the highly contagious disease.

They join 125 foreign veterinarians in Britain helping diagnose the virus and supervise livestock slaughters, among them 45 other Americans and others from Australia, New Zealand, and several European countries. Many of the American vets were recruited by the U.S. government.

None of the U.S. doctors has seen a live foot-and-mouth case, and their up-close experience would be useful if the United States ever suffers an outbreak. France, Ireland, and the Netherlands have all confirmed cases since the first one was found in Britain Feb. 20. Britain now has more than 1,000 cases.

"What we're going to learn is what a disease looks like that not any of us have ever seen before, and help out at the same time," said Jim Wenzel, a professor at Auburn University's veterinary school in Alabama.

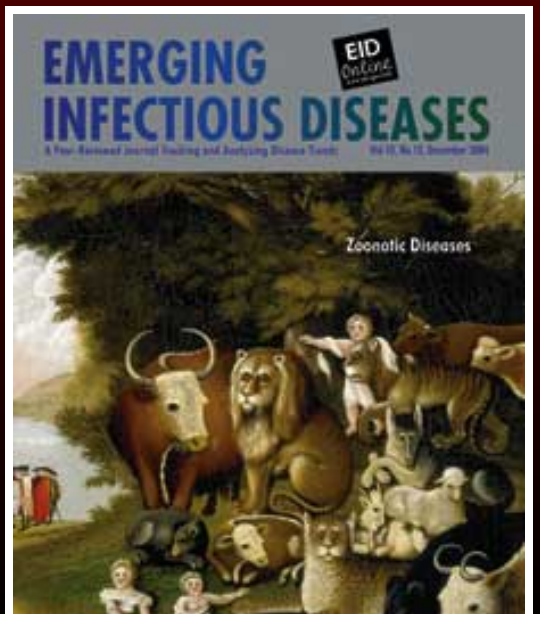
The U.S. Department of Agriculture "likes us being here because if we have a problem, then we'll know what we're doing, we will have been in the fray before."

Rice Macfie of the South Carolina state veterinarian's office in Columbia, said the Americans will have to rely at first on their book learning.

"Like any other disease, you have to see it to learn it. We have not had an occasion to see it," he said.

- USDA-FSIS

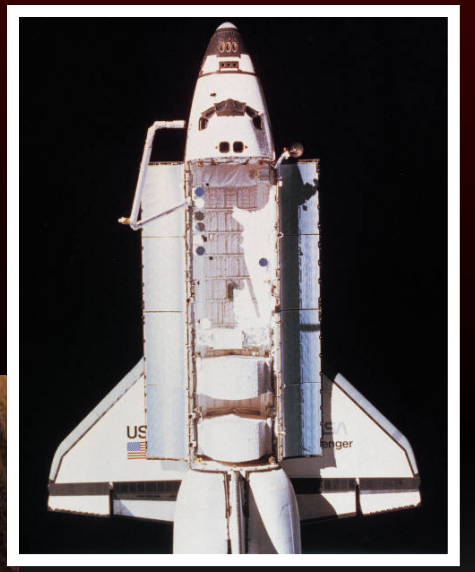
Veterinary Public Health



Homeland Security

Military Service

Other professional activities



Income for Private Practice Veterinarians in the USA

Private Practice Type	# of Vets	Median Income Pre-Tax
Food Animal Exclusive	993	$91,000
Food Animal Predominant	4,150	$79,000
Mixed Animal	4,376	$73,000
Small Animal Predominant	5,688	$91,000
Small Animal Exclusive	37,137	$79,000
Equine	3,404	$91,000
Other	344	$79,000
Totals	**56,092**	**$79,000**

Source: AVMA Market Research Statistics for US Veterinarians (2007)
http://www.avma.org/reference/marketstats/usvets.asp

2008 Starting Salaries

Private Practice Type	# of Vets	Median Income Pre-Tax	Mean Additional Compensation
Food Animal Exclusive	44	$62,424	$13,783
Food Animal Predominant	47	$57,745	$8,726
Mixed Animal	162	$58,522	$7,883
Small Animal Predominant	132	$61,753	$9,040
Small Animal Exclusive	549	$64,744	$9,659
Equine	57	$41,636	$9,278
Public/Corporate	51	$63,670	$13,067
Totals	**1,042**	**$62,599**	**$11,173**

The need for food supply veterinarians

- Why food supply medicine will remain vital:
  - Societal concerns for animal welfare
  - Foreign animal diseases
  - Emerging disease threats and bioterrorism
  - Zoonotic diseases
  - Food safety - preharvest & post-harvest
  - Antimicrobial resistance
  - Concern over new and existing technologies

Benefits of Working as a Food Animal Veterinarian

- Rural lifestyle / outdoor work .
- Public health / Safety.
- Variety / Interesting tasks
- Work with good people
- Flexible hours / Autonomy
- Good income
- Personally satisfying
- Stable career / Opportunities
- Low stress / Slower pace
- Build community

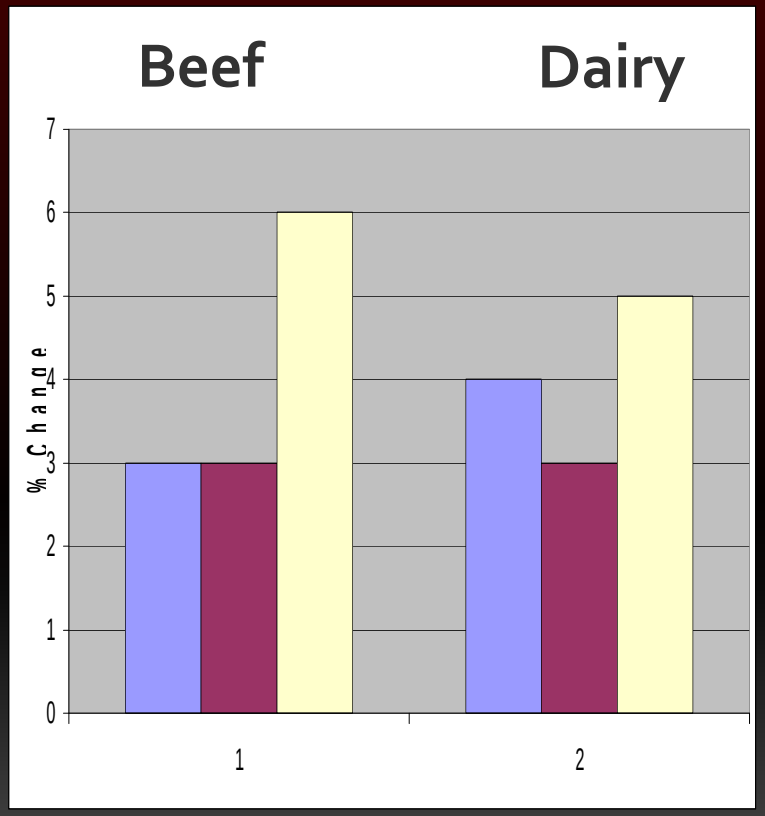
Is there a need or demand?

- FSVMC/Bayer Study
  - "Estimating FSVM Demand and Maintaining the Availability of Veterinarians for Careers in Food Supply Related Disciplines in the United States."
  - Drs. Andrus, Gwinner and Prince
  - College of Business Administration at Kansas State University.

Is there a need or demand?

- FSVMC/Bayer Study
  - The demand for both beef and dairy practitioners is expected to increase in the future.
  - Both types of practice are expected to require 3-5% more veterinarians in short-term, medium-term, and long-term periods.

Beef & Dairy Demand



- **Beef:**
  - **Short-Term: Up 3.0%**
  - **Medium-Term: Up 3.0%**
  - **Long-Term: Up 6.0%**
- **Dairy:**
  - **Short-Term: Up 4.0%**
  - **Medium-Term: Up 3.0%**
  - **Long-Term: Up 5.0%**

Short-Term: 2004-07

Medium-Term: 2007-10

Long-Term: 2010-16

Is there a need or demand?

- FSVMC/Bayer Study
  - On the supply side
    - shortages of both beef and dairy practitioners of 3.5 - 5% are predicted in short-term, medium-term, and long-term periods.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Quick facts

Wise Center

- completed in 1982
- 620 rooms on 8 acres
- 360,000 square feet under one roof

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Veterinary Medicine

Our Unique Curriculum

Year 1 = foundation courses

Year 2 = study of clinical diseases & surgery labs

Year 3 = clinical rotations in AHC

Year 4 = remaining clinical rotations and experiential

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Veterinary Medicine

Quick facts

Enrollment

- 80 students entering class of 2012
- Approximately 40 seats for MS residents
  - Evaluated separately from out-of-state pool
- 5 seats assigned to contract state
  - South Carolina
  - West Virginia

Other Student Programs

- Dual Degree Program
  - MS/PhD
  - Thesis and Non-Thesis
- Summer Research Program

So you still want to be a vet!?

Admissions requirements

A strong academic record

- 2.8 GPA is required at MSU-CVM
  - Overall and Math/Science
- Incoming class has >3.5 GPA
- Need to take the GRE
  - Incoming class has >1,000
- Be sure to choose a college or department that will allow you to get the prerequisite courses

Prerequisite courses for MSU-CVM include:

- English composition
- Speech or technical writing
- Mathematics
- General biology
- Microbiology
- General chemistry
- Organic chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Physics
- Advanced science electives
- Humanities

Personal qualities to lead to a successful career include:

- A scientific mind
- Good communication skills
- Management experience
- Animal handling experience

Thanks for your attention!

Are there any questions?