

SEC. 3. DAIRY MANDATORY REPORTING.

(a) **ELECTRONIC REPORTING REQUIRED.**—Subsection (d) of section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **ELECTRONIC REPORTING.**—

“(1) **ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM REQUIRED.**—The Secretary shall establish an electronic reporting system to carry out this section.

“(2) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the Wednesday of each week, the Secretary shall publish a report containing the information obtained under this section for the preceding week.”.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement the electronic reporting system required by subsection (d) of section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b), as amended by subsection (a). Until the electronic reporting system is implemented, the Secretary shall continue to conduct mandatory dairy product information reporting under the authority of such section, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, S. 3656.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2010 will authorize for 5 years the mandatory price reporting programs run by the United States Department of Agriculture. This act requires sales information to be reported and published in a timely fashion, allowing livestock buyers and sellers to make more informed decisions.

The Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2010 adds mandatory reporting for wholesale pork cuts and pork exports. It also requires USDA to establish an electronic reporting system for dairy products so that price information is made available more quickly.

Madam Speaker, reauthorizing mandatory price reporting programs provides producers with the transparent, accurate and timely market information they need. I urge passage of the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2010.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 3656, the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2010, is a straightforward, 5-year reauthorization of a program that began with passage of the original legislation in 1999. The original act came as a result of many months of negotiations between a

broad array of industry participants and required packers to report livestock purchase prices to USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service. Both producers and packers agree that mandatory price reporting plays an important role in transparent, accurate and timely decision-making for participants in today's livestock markets.

This program was last reauthorized during the 109th Congress. As with that original legislation and subsequent reauthorizations or amendments, S. 3656 represents a consensus view of many producer and packer interests with a direct stake in the reporting program. Anyone familiar with animal agriculture knows how challenging it can be to have this many competing interests—from producers to processors—achieve an agreement.

S. 3656 will make some small changes to the existing reporting program. First, reporting of wholesale pork cuts will be required for the first time. The details of this new rule will be worked out in the rulemaking process. Second, there will now be reporting on a weekly basis of pork exports. Finally, the legislation directs the Secretary to implement an electronic system of dairy price reporting in the absence of an appropriation for this purpose.

Companion legislation, H.R. 5852, passed the House Agriculture Committee on July 28. Since mandatory price reporting expires on September 30, it is timely that we are acting today. I advocate passage of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this very timely and needed bill to modernize our marketing system and to bring transparency to our buyers and purchasers within our livestock industry and within the animal agriculture industry. It is important for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3656.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERINARIAN SERVICES INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3519) to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3519

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterinarian Services Investment Act”.

SEC. 2. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1415A (7 U.S.C. 3151a) the following new section:

“SEC. 1415B. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program to make competitive grants to qualified entities that engage in activities described in paragraph (2) for the purpose of developing, implementing, and sustaining veterinary services.

“(2) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, a qualified entity must carry out programs or activities that the Secretary determines will—

“(A) substantially relieve veterinarian shortage situations;

“(B) support or facilitate private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities; or

“(C) support or facilitate practices of veterinarians who are participating in or have successfully completed a service requirement under section 1415A(a)(2).

“(b) **AWARD PROCESSES AND PREFERENCES.**—

“(1) **APPLICATION, EVALUATION, AND INPUT PROCESSES.**—In administering the grant program under this section, the Secretary shall use an appropriate application and evaluation process and seek the input of interested persons.

“(2) **GRANT PREFERENCES.**—In the case of grants to be used for any of the purposes described in paragraphs (2) through (6) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall give a preference to the selection of qualified entities that document coordination between or with other qualified entities regarding the applicable purpose.

“(3) **ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.**—When awarding grants under this section, the Secretary may develop additional preferences by taking into account the amount of funds available for grants as well as the purposes for which the grant funds will be used.

“(4) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.**—Sections 1413B, 1462(a), 1469(a)(3), 1469(c), and 1470 shall apply to the administration of the grant program under this section.

“(c) **USE OF GRANTS TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERVICES.**—Funds provided by grants under this section may be used for the following purposes to relieve veterinarian shortage situations and support veterinary services:

“(1) Grants to assist veterinarians with establishing or expanding practices for the purpose of equipping veterinary offices, sharing in the reasonable overhead costs of such practices (as determined by the Secretary), or establishing mobile veterinary facilities where at least a portion of such facilities will address education or extension needs.

“(2) Grants to promote recruitment (including programs in secondary schools), placement, and retention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students of veterinary medicine, and students of veterinary technology.

“(3) Grants for veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students to cover

expenses (other than the types of expenses listed in 1415A(c)(5)) to attend training programs in food safety or food animal medicine.

“(4) Grants establishing or expanding accredited veterinary education programs (including faculty recruitment and retention), veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

“(5) Grants for the assessment of veterinarian shortage situations and preparation of applications for designation as a shortage situation.

“(6) Grants in continuing education and extension, including tele-veterinary medicine and other distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety.

“(d) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN GRANTS.—

“(1) TERMS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—Grants provided under this section for the purpose specified in subsection (c)(1) shall be subject to an agreement between the Secretary and the grant recipient that includes a required term of service for the recipient, as established by the Secretary. In establishing such terms, the Secretary shall consider only—

“(A) the amount of the grant awarded; and

“(B) the specific purpose of the grant.

“(2) BREACH REMEDIES.—An agreement under paragraph (1) shall provide remedies for any breach of the agreement by the grant recipient, including repayment or partial repayment of the grant funds, with interest. The Secretary may waive the repayment obligation in the event of extreme hardship or extreme need, as determined by the Secretary.

“(3) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECOVERED.—Funds recovered under paragraph (2) shall be credited to the account available to carry out this section and shall remain available until expended.

“(e) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) RECIPIENT SHARE.—A grant recipient shall provide matching non-Federal funds, either in cash or in-kind support, in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the Federal funds provided in a grant under this section.

“(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may establish, by regulation, conditions under which the cost-sharing requirements of paragraph (1) may be reduced or waived.

“(f) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION.—Funds made available for grants under this section shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building of facility, including site grading and improvement and architect fees.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATION.—The term ‘veterinarian shortage situation’ means a veterinarian shortage situation determined by the Secretary under section 1415A(b).

“(2) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified entity’ means the following:

“(A) A for-profit or nonprofit entity located in the United States that operates a veterinary clinic providing veterinary services—

“(i) in a rural area, as defined in section 1393(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(ii) in response to a veterinarian shortage situation.

“(B) A State, national, allied, or regional veterinary organization or specialty board

recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

“(C) A college or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

“(D) A university research foundation or veterinary medical foundation.

“(E) A department of veterinary science or department of comparative medicine accredited by the Department of Education.

“(F) A State agricultural experiment station.

“(G) A State, local, or tribal government agency.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization of appropriations shall remain available to the Secretary for the purposes of this section until expended.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 3519.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3519, the Veterinarian Services Investment Act, which was introduced by my good friend and colleague from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH). I had the privilege to be the lead Democrat on this legislation which is vital to growing our rural communities across America and securing our Nation's food supply.

Our veterinary workforce is responsible for ensuring that the food we eat is safe, but they are facing a critical shortage in the public, private, industrial and academic sectors, and the problem is growing. Our Nation's large-animal vets are truly on the front lines of food safety, public health, animal health and national security. The demand for large-animal veterinarians is increasing, and lack of these specialists in many areas of the country will continue to put our agricultural economy and the safety of our food supply at risk.

I know firsthand how important large-animal veterinarians are to farmers and ranchers. When I left the Army, I returned to my family farm and realized that much had changed in agriculture during the 20-plus years I had served. I decided to sit down with my local veterinarian and have a discussion on the new animal health prac-

tices that science and research had given agriculture. I was lucky because in the small town of Lamoni in Decatur County we had a food animal veterinarian who I could turn to; however, many are not so lucky today. We are experiencing a shortage in large-food animal veterinarians across the country.

I have worked over the years to try and correct the shortage of livestock and large-animal veterinarians. Research has shown that the demand for large-animal veterinarians will increase by 13 percent a year, with four in every 100 positions remaining vacant.

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With just over 250 graduates from veterinary schools going into livestock-related fields, this crisis is a problem that not only affects rural America but also our major cities. These large animal veterinarians are the first line of defense against animal disease, outbreaks that can occur and cause serious health problems. Food and animal veterinarians not only identify, treat, and prevent naturally occurring diseases but are also on the front line of agroterrorism.

For all of the reasons above, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the Veterinarian Services Investment Act today. This legislation will authorize grants to address workforce shortages based on the needs of underserved areas. For example, grants could be used to recruit veterinarians and veterinary technicians in shortage areas and communities. It could add veterinarians expanding and establishing practices in high-need areas. It could establish mobile portable clinics and televet services and establish education programs, including continuing education, distance education, and factor recruitment in veterinary science.

Our Nation faces major challenges to relieve veterinary shortages, and the Veterinarian Services Investment Act is a step in the right direction.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3519, the Veterinarian Services Investment Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3519, the Veterinarian Services Investment Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since the fall of 2000, the Committee on Agriculture has worked on ways of resolving the serious veterinary shortage problem confronting many rural communities. With the passage of the National Veterinary Medical Service Act in December of 2003, a program was finally authorized to incentivize large animal veterinarians to practice in communities that USDA designated as veterinarian shortage areas. With this program in place, large animal veterinarians are able to apply on a competitive basis for educational loan repayment assistance in exchange for their commitment to practice in shortage

areas for the length of time as established by the regulations.

While it's unfortunate that it took almost 6 years for USDA to establish a final rule implementing this first step, I'm optimistic that when the first awards are issued in the coming weeks, we'll begin a slowdown and hopefully reverse this problem.

To the extent that the loan program is successful, it's important to consider that this was just the first step. While this assistance will be very helpful in attracting veterinarians to these communities, there remain gaps in veterinarian recruitment, attracting and training technical support staff, and simply meeting the long-term costs of operating veterinarian practices in these communities.

The Veterinarian Services Investment Act is meant to address these secondary needs and is designed to complement the loan repayment program to help large animal veterinarians become established in these communities.

This bill recognizes and addresses a real problem in rural America, and I'm proud to be an original cosponsor. I support this legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), who has done an outstanding job of shepherding this bill through, understands the challenges in his State and in rural communities across America, and he's trying to do something.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I sincerely appreciate today's consideration of H.R. 3519, the Veterinarian Services Investment Act. The need for skilled veterinarians has already been stated. It may not be at the forefront of debate here in Washington, but it is an issue which impacts many areas of our country and many aspects of our lives.

Our food animal veterinary workforce is on the front lines of food safety, public health, and animal health. This vital profession, however, is facing a critical shortage in the public, private, industrial, and academic sectors. To make matters worse, the problem is certainly on the rise.

Large animal veterinarians in particular are integral to small rural communities, but in many of these communities—communities with few people but with large numbers of animals—we are seeing a very distressing trend. According to the USDA, Nebraska's Cherry County, one of the top three beef production counties in the United States, has 145,000 food animals per one veterinarian.

To this end, I've introduced H.R. 3519, the Veterinarian Services Investment Act, with Mr. BOSWELL. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to award competitive grants to help develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services especially in identified and underserved areas.

Though we may not realize it, veterinarians make a difference every day.

They understand animals and are integral parts of our rural communities. Unfortunately, too many rural communities don't have this necessary support. This investment act will make a difference, and I urge its passage.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, just a couple of things before we close.

There are an estimated 283 million pets and 2.3 billion farm animals in our country. That's a lot of animals, FRANK, don't you think? It is. There are nearly 86,000 veterinarians in the U.S.; however, the majority of them focus on pets—cats and dogs. Twenty-eight veterinary schools in the country, and something that's very important to this legislation, veterinary graduates have an average debt of \$120,000. So I think this is something that we ought to be aware of when we think of food safety and so on. So the demand for large animal veterinarians is increasing, and the lack of these faceless in many areas of the country will continue to put our agricultural economy and the safety of our food supply at risk.

H.R. 3519, the Veterinarian Services Investment Act, will help address this shortage and continue to ensure Americans have access to the safest, most plentiful, and most available food supply in the world. So I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3519, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1613) expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating floods that began on July 22, 2010, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1613

Whereas heavy rainfall that began on July 22, 2010, and subsequent flooding throughout Pakistan have caused a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions that has affected over 20,000,000 people, killing more than 1,750, injuring over 2,700, damaging or destroying upwards of 1,800,000 houses, and displacing millions of men, women, and children;

Whereas the devastation wrought by the floods has been catastrophic, submerging

one-fifth of the country and destroying critical infrastructure, farms, schools, homes, and businesses, leaving an estimated 800,000 Pakistanis stranded and cut off from all help;

Whereas according to the Government of Pakistan, the floods have affected 30 percent of all agricultural land and could lower by one-half Pakistan's economic growth rate for the current fiscal year, further destabilizing a nation already beset by multiple daunting challenges;

Whereas the emergency continues to unfold in Sindh Province, where just under 7,000,000 people have already been affected, of whom 1,300,000 are in government relief camps, with new evacuation orders recently having been issued;

Whereas the danger of the floods extends beyond the current humanitarian crisis, with the potential to create significant instability in Pakistan;

Whereas the Pakistani Army, Navy, and Frontier Corps have sent humanitarian supplies and medical teams to flood-hit areas, while the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities have coordinated international relief activities;

Whereas the United States has responded to the crisis with relief and recovery funds, food and medical supplies, and logistical support that account for more than 20 percent of total international humanitarian contributions and commitments;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), has supported 26 mobile medical teams, delivered more than 8,000 rolls of plastic sheeting to provide temporary shelter for approximately 247,000 people, and dispatched 13 mobile water treatment units to support the Government of Pakistan's flood relief effort, which have produced more than 12,000,000 liters of clean water;

Whereas USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has provided direct support for the United Nations World Food Program's food ration distributions, helping to reach approximately 3,000,000 Pakistanis with more than 48,000 metric tons of food;

Whereas the United States Department of Defense has dispatched 23 military helicopters and four C-130 aircraft to deliver more than 5,000,000 pounds of relief supplies and has rescued more than 13,000 flood-affected individuals;

Whereas the United States has provided civilian and military in-kind assistance in the form of halal meals, prefabricated steel bridges, and other infrastructure support;

Whereas the United States is working in close partnership with United Nations-affiliated and international humanitarian organizations to support relief, recovery, and reconstruction;

Whereas the Pakistani-American community has demonstrated strong leadership in rallying support for flood victims, directing public attention to the crisis, and disseminating information about the response;

Whereas scores of United States private and voluntary organizations have mobilized quickly to respond to the crisis in Pakistan with both emergency relief and longer term development assistance, raising over \$11,000,000 in private donations for assessing emergency needs, distributing water, food, and relief items, and providing medical care and temporary shelter;

Whereas the success of United States Government humanitarian efforts depends heavily on the skills, expertise, and field presence of international and nongovernmental organizations;