Texas A&M University has a premier veterinary medical college that is ranked #1 in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), #4 in the nation, and #10 in the world. More importantly, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) remains dedicated to “Serving Every Texan Every Day.”

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center (TVMC)—a CVM partnership with West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), Tarleton State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville, with the expertise, leadership, and resources to meet the demand for veterinarians throughout our state—is serving rural and urban areas, protecting our food supply, doing research that matters, providing cost-effective educational and clinical services, and supporting a strong Texas economy.

RESULTS

The 2017 and 2018 Food Animal Track DVM graduates are hitting the field, specifically trained for beef cattle and food production medicine!

Recruiting more DVM students from Underrepresented Minorities (URM) and Rural Communities

- 4 universities have memorandum of agreements (MOA) with the CVM to recruit students from rural communities.
- 10 new DVM students are in the CVM's entering classes of 2021 and 2022 through the WTAMU MOA.
- 3 new DVM students are in the CVM's entering classes of 2021 and 2022 through the PVAMU MOA.
- 5 new DVM students are in the CVM's entering classes of 2021 and 2022 through the Tarleton MOA.
- 5 new DVM students are in the CVM's entering classes of 2021 and 2022 through the TAMU-Kingsville MOA.
- 16 new Food Animal Track DVM graduates from the CVM's graduating classes of 2017 and 2018 are entering the market.
LEADERSHIP

Strong Leadership: At the CVM, with partners in West Texas & at WTAMU

Dr. Eleanor M. Green, the Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, has logged over 270 contact hours speaking about WTAMU rural needs and the TVMC across the state.

The TVMC Statewide Partnership Advisory Council was formed in 2016. Council members are in both the High Plains Veterinary Medical Association (VMA) and the South Plains VMA.

Boots on the Ground at WT: Dr. Dee Griffin & Dr. Dan Posey were hired in 2016 and are now serving rural needs at WTAMU.

RESOURCES

Over 100 Years of Experience: Serving & Solving Needs for Texans

State-of-the-Art Large Animal Hospital

Collaborative, Innovative, and Transformative Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex (VBEC)

Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM ’56 Equine Complex
The Texas A&M University System Regents pledged $22.8 million building for veterinary education, research, and workforce opportunities in the Panhandle as part of almost $90 million in new commitments to the state agriculture industry on the West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) campus.

The new Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach Center (VERO) Center will be constructed adjacent to WTAMU's new Agricultural Sciences Complex, and a new Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) facility currently in the process of relocating from Amarillo to Canyon.

Once the VERO Center is completed in 2020, it will provide an anchor in Canyon where students from the CVM will be able to take courses, participate in externship programs, and conduct research. Opportunities for research and collaboration with faculty and staff at WTAMU and TVMDL will be available to students from both Texas A&M and WTAMU, as well as practicing veterinarians and livestock industry groups.

The VERO Center will house researchers who explore significant problems in animal and human health, while finding and sharing solutions in the Texas Panhandle, throughout Texas, across the nation, and around the world. By linking these campuses and regions, the Texas A&M University System is pooling capabilities to make available to the Texas Panhandle the resources of the CVM, including the talents of approximately 300 veterinary faculty, while also making available to College Station the agricultural strengths of WTAMU and the Texas Panhandle and High Plains regions—the epicenter of the livestock industry.

Veterinary students in all four years of the curriculum will have exceptional opportunities to gain hands-on experience in rural and livestock veterinary medicine. The educational experiences will be led by CVM veterinary faculty who live in the Texas Panhandle and work at WTAMU, collaborating with practicing veterinarians in the region. These hands-on opportunities will be available to all veterinary students, some seeking concentrated livestock experiences and some wanting to learn more about livestock agriculture before choosing their career paths. This new generation of veterinarians not only will serve food animal agriculture production and rural communities in this region, but also will meet future needs in veterinary diagnostic labs, food safety regulatory agencies, and veterinary pharmaceutical research.

In summary, these shared resources will create and support for many years to come the best food animal and rural veterinarian education and research program in the nation and the world. The combined investment and shared expertise at WTAMU, Texas A&M University, TVMDL, and local practicing veterinarians through externships and internships, will contribute to this excellence in veterinary medicine.
West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) and the Texas A&M Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach (VERO) Center received a four-year, $243,500 grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Project director Dee Griffin, DVM, and co-director Dan Posey, DVM, both Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CMV) faculty, relocated to WTAMU to establish the partnership between CVM and WTAMU.

Grant funding will be used to support the development and initiation of seven veterinary-centered programs, including:
1) developing fourth-year veterinary student rural clinical training externships;
2) developing summer working internships for CVM veterinary students finishing their first or second years;
3) supporting CVM veterinary food animal student mentoring for all students interested in food animal practice;
4) supporting an annual rural veterinary practice and livestock operations tour for selected third-year CVM veterinary students;
5) aggressively recruiting qualified students with rural backgrounds;
6) recruiting outstanding rural students from 4-H and FFA programs to consider a veterinary career;
7) practicing sustainability workshops for Texas Panhandle & Plains (TPH&P) rural veterinarians, which will include training for mentoring veterinary students and improved community communication skills.

Rural TPH&P has significant, capturable veterinary opportunities. The organization and necessary collaborative partnerships are in place at WTAMU and the VERO to achieve the unique grant funding objectives, and for several of the objectives to become self-sustaining.

~ Dr. Eleanor M. Green, The Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University

~ Dr. Walter V. Wendler, President, West Texas A&M University

~ John Sharp, Chancellor, Texas A&M University System

~ Dr. Eleanor M. Green, The Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University

~ Michael K. Young, President, Texas A&M University

“This arrangement is a perfect model of how, through collaboration with the System’s regional universities and state agencies, we can expand our reach and our impact on the lives of Texans.”

~ Michael K. Young, President, Texas A&M University