



Regional Support for Veterinary Services for Food Animals

PROGRAM GUIDE 2026

Overview

The Regional Support for Veterinary Services for Food Animals Program (RS-VET) supports veterinary practices to increase services for food-producing animals in highly underserved regions of British Columbia (BC).

This program is managed by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) and funded in part by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Program Objectives

Increase veterinary services for food-producing animals in underserved regions.

Expand the provision of telemedicine and other innovative mechanisms identified by community veterinary practices to facilitate delivery of veterinary services for food-producing animals in underserved regions.

Build partnerships, capacity, and improved mutual understanding between local stakeholders for delivery of veterinary services for food-producing animals in underserved regions.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

Veterinary practices may apply for funding for one or more of the following activities, to a maximum total funding amount of \$25,000 per practice over the duration of the program (Aug. 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2027).

1. Licensing and accreditation to deliver food animal services

- Veterinary practices that are accredited by the College of Veterinarians of BC (CVBC), but do not currently have a scope of practice that includes food animals, and that wish to expand scope of practice to include **food animals**

in Priority 1 areas, are eligible for a maximum of \$3500 per practice for reimbursement of;

- CVBC fees associated with the change of scope,
 - fees associated with CVBC registrant licensing, SBCV membership, and BCVTA registration for staff that provide food animal services,
 - staff wages allocated to work required to meet CVBC requirements associated with change of scope.
- New veterinary practices that become accredited by the CVBC to provide **food animal services in Priority 1 areas** are eligible for a maximum of \$3500 per practice for reimbursement of;
 - CVBC fees associated with facility accreditation.
 - fees associated with CVBC registrant licensing, SBCV membership, and BCVTA registration for staff that provide food animal services,
 - staff wages allocated to work required to meet CVBC requirements.

2. Enhanced service delivery

- Veterinary practices can claim a stipend for veterinarians and/or RVTs to provide service to **producers whose premises are located in Priority 1 regions**, and are at least 80km (one-way shortest driving distance) from the primary location of the veterinary practice. The maximum allowable claim is \$5000 per veterinary practice per quarter.
 - The stipend is available at the following rates.
 - 80 to 169km: \$200 stipend per day
 - 170 to 249km: \$400 stipend per day
 - >250 km: \$600 stipend per day

- The stipend can be claimed for veterinary visits to establish and maintain veterinary-client-patient relationships and to provide scheduled care.
- It is expected that visits to multiple premises should be scheduled on each day wherever possible, and especially where visits are of shorter duration, so that as many food animal clients as possible can be seen during each visit.
- If more than one veterinary team member provides services on the same day, only one stipend can be claimed per day.
- Travel to a single premises to provide emergency care is considered ineligible.
- Establishing or enhancing the delivery of telemedicine for food-producing animals by **veterinary practices located in a Priority 1 region**. The total allowable claim is \$3000 per veterinary practice.

3. Recruitment and Retention

- Expenditures for recruitment services to fill veterinarian or RVT vacancies at **veterinary practices that are located in a Priority 1 region**, and that offer services for food-producing animals. The total allowable claim is \$1000 per veterinary practice.
- Expenditures for veterinarians and RVTs to participate in job interviews at **veterinary practices that are located in a Priority 1 region**, and that offer services for food-producing animals. The total allowable claim is \$5000 per veterinary practice.
- Hiring bonuses for newly recruited veterinarians and RVTs that sign contracts (minimum 1-year full-time equivalent) at **veterinary practices that are located in a Priority 1 region**, and that offer services for food-producing animals. The total allowable claim is \$15,000 per veterinary practice.

4. *Other*

- Other activities identified by **veterinary practices that are located in a Priority 1 region** and that offer services for food-producing animals may be considered, such as improving access to infrastructure and equipment that can practically be shared by multiple veterinary practices to increase food animal service delivery in Priority 1 regions.

Eligible geographic regions and applicants

Eligible Priority 1 geographic regions include Stikine, Kitimat Stikine, Peace River, Northern Rockies, North Coast, Central Coast, Bulkley Nechako, and Fraser Fort George. For map view, please see Appendix A.

For the Activity 'Licensing and accreditation to deliver food animal services', program applicants must be either:

- Veterinary practices accredited by the College of Veterinarians of BC (CVBC), but not currently accredited for food animal services (e.g. practices currently delivering companion animal or equine services in a Priority 1 region).
- Veterinarians licensed by the CVBC, or immediately eligible for licensing by the CVBC (e.g. veterinarians practicing in another region of BC and planning to start a new practice in a Priority 1 region; ABVMA licensed veterinarians practicing near the interprovincial border that plan to become CVBC licensed, and open a CVBC accredited practice that offers food animal services).

For all other Activities, program applicants must be:

- Veterinary practices accredited by the CVBC to provide food animal services.
- Actively offering food animal services to clients in Priority 1 regions during the program period. For this program, food animals are defined as animals raised to produce food or fiber, and include cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and bison. Services to producers at any production scale (e.g., large-scale, small lot) are eligible.

Ineligible Participants, Activities and Expenditures

The following participants, activities, and expenses are not eligible to be funded under RS-VET. This list is not exhaustive and is meant to be used as a guideline.

Ineligible Participants

- Any entity that is not a veterinary practice or veterinarian as described in this program guide.

Ineligible Activities and Expenditures

- Activities that are educational externships/rotations, or components of veterinary or veterinary technologist education curricula.
- Activities that do not occur in a Priority 1 region as defined in this program guide.
- Expenditures that exceed stated activity maximum amounts as stated in this program guide.
- Expenditures that are already being claimed under any other AF program

Applications

Applications will collect information that includes:

- Practice and designated veterinarian name, address, phone numbers and email addresses.
- Number of:
 - Full time (equivalent) veterinarians,
 - Full time (equivalent) registered veterinary technologists (RVTs),
 - Herd or flock level veterinary-client-patient relationships (VCPRs),
 - Types of animals serviced by the practice and approximate proportion of cases seen for each animal type.
- Support letters from local government(s) or producer group(s), or individual producers (at least 3) attesting to the need for increased access to veterinary services for food animals in the intended service delivery area. Letters to be sent to chief.veterinarian@gov.bc.ca.

- Standard demographic information (Indigeneity, gender, age) of the practice owners.

Important Program Dates

Applications will be accepted through UNITY starting on June 24, 2026 on a first come first served basis. Applications will close on September 15, 2026. Additional application windows may be opened subsequently if funding is available. These funding windows may include additional geographic regions.

Accepted applicants may start program activities on or after August 1, 2026. The final day for program activities and expenditures is December 31, 2027.

Review and Adjudication

AF staff will review all applications for eligibility and completeness. If any required information is not submitted with the application, it will be returned to the applicant requesting missing information and can slow down funding decision timelines.

If the amount of program funding requested across all eligible and complete applications exceeds funding available, allocation will be on a first come first serve basis.

Reimbursement

On acceptance to the program, applicants must submit the [Direct Deposit Application Form \(PDF, 407 KB\) for General and Service Suppliers](#) along with copy of a void cheque.

For the activity 'Licensing and accreditation to deliver food animal services' reimbursement will be available once the practice is actively delivering food animal services in a Priority 1 region. For other activities, reimbursement will be available on a quarterly basis for activities completed in the quarter.

To be eligible for payment, claim forms must be submitted within ten business days of the end of the quarter when services were delivered without exception (e.g. by July 10th for activities and expenditures between April 1st to June 30th, by October 10th for activities and expenditures between July 1st and September 30th, by January 10th for activities and expenditures between October 1st to December 31st,

and by April 10th for activities and expenditures between January 1st and March 31st) .

The claim form will collect information needed to validate the claim, and will require receipts or invoices and proof of payment for claimed expenses, and proof of service delivery for claimed stipends. AF staff may validate claims by requesting additional proof of claim from veterinary practices, veterinary practice clients, or by other means deemed practical by staff.

Program Contact

If you are a veterinary clinic and have questions about the application process or eligibility criteria, please contact AF staff at chief.veterinarian@gov.bc.ca or call AGRIServiceBC at 1-888-221-7141.

Appendix A: Map showing Areas Eligible for RS-Vet Program

