

September 30, 2008



**TEXAS
CATTLE
FEEDERS
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Docket Clerk
USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 3153 Waterfront Center
800 9th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250-2220

RE: Docket No. CSREES-2008-0001

The following comments are filed by Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA), a trade association representing cattle feeders and feedyards in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas – the largest cattle feeding region in the United States. Our members market approximately 7 million head of fed cattle each year, constituting about 30% of the nation's fed beef.

TCFA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) development of implementing regulations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program as published in the Federal Register on August 29, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 169, Pages 50928-50929) titled, "Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding Implementation of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)," Docket No. CSREES-2008-0001. The VMLRP is authorized under section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C 3151a).

Given the shortage of large animal veterinarians and the impact this has on cattle feeders, TCFA strongly supports the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. Further, we agree with and support the comments of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) filed on September 30, 2008.

Sincerely,

Ross Wilson
President & CEO
Texas Cattle Feeders Association