



*Preliminary rendering of Murray State University's new \$60 million Veterinary Sciences Building.
Appropriation secured in the 2024 Legislative Session.*

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

During the 2025 Legislative Session,
we are requesting that
KRS 164.295 be amended
to allow Murray State University to offer
doctorates in veterinary medicine (DVM).



MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

Hutson School of Agriculture



284

**Pre-Veterinary Medicine
ENROLLMENT**

FALL '24



1,269

Hutson School of Agriculture

**TOTAL
ENROLLMENT**

FALL '24

**Largest pre-veterinary medicine/
veterinary technology
enrollment in Kentucky**

**Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture has
742 dual credit agriculture students
across 110 counties in Kentucky**



173

**Veterinary Technology
ENROLLMENT**

FALL '24



Hutson School of Agriculture Assets

A. Carman Animal Health Technology Facility
Agricultural Systems Technology Instructional Facility
Breathitt Veterinary Center – Christian County
E.B. Howton Agriculture Engineering Building
Oakley Applied Sciences Building

Eldon Heathcott Rodeo Barn
Mabel G. & J. Stanley Pullen Farm
Rudolph Equine Education Center
Eagle Rest Farm – 534-acre farm in Ballard County
The Hutson Farm – 165 acres for agronomy research

William “Bill” Cherry Agricultural Exposition Center
The Doran Arboretum
MSU West Farm
North Farm Complex
home to the Tosh Swine finishing barn.



“Nationwide, a shortage of large animal veterinarians is creating a negative impact as farmers search to find the veterinary care they need for their animals. Large animal veterinarians are essential to the protection of the nation’s food supply.” ~ Kentucky Department of Agriculture press release, December 20, 2023

“Murray State University has a strong foundation upon which to build a new CVM (College of Veterinary Medicine), including strong institutional financials, existing facilities and expertise in animal sciences, and the proposed CVM would contribute positively to our state and local economy.”

~ Deloitte Study, December 2024

“There is an undisputed shortage of rural large animal vets in Kentucky”... and, “Murray State University has a record of successfully placing graduates in rural areas.”

~ Deloitte Study, December 2024

“We support Legislation to allow Kentucky’s Comprehensive Universities to offer doctoral degrees”

~ Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, December 2024



“Our commonwealth is long overdue for a veterinary school, especially one of the caliber Murray State can provide. I offer my most robust support for Murray State University’s efforts and look forward to working with you to make their plan a reality.”

~ United States Congressman James Comer
1st District of Kentucky, December 2023

“I fully support Murray State University in your efforts to develop an accredited School of Veterinary Medicine to aid in the large animal veterinarian shortage and assist the animal agriculture economy of Kentucky.”

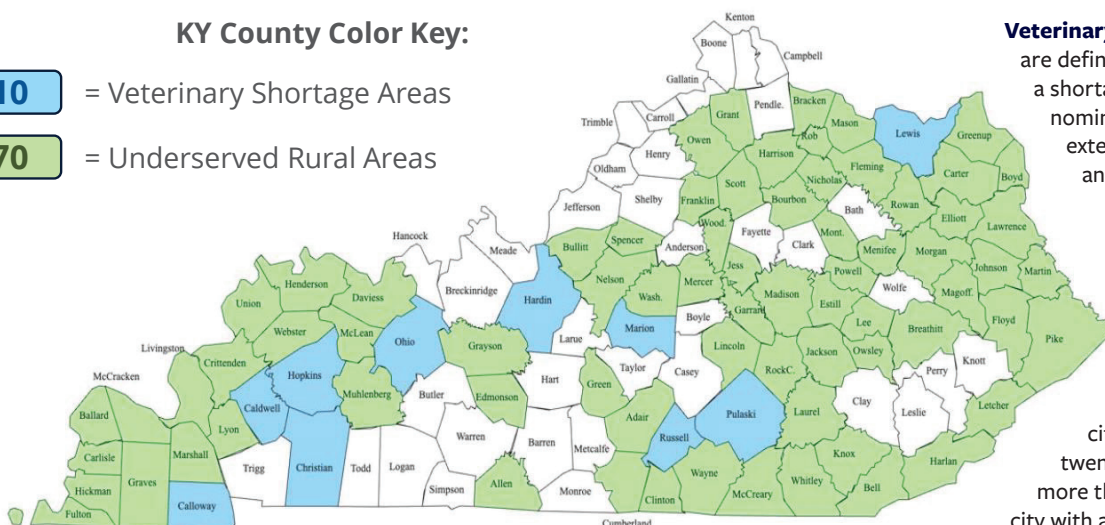
~ United States Senator Rand Paul, March 2024

Veterinary Shortage and Underserved Rural Areas in Kentucky

KY County Color Key:

10 = Veterinary Shortage Areas

70 = Underserved Rural Areas



Veterinary shortage service areas

are defined through implementation of a shortage nomination process, where nominations are reviewed by an external panel of veterinary experts and provided a designation.

Underserved rural area

means an area of Kentucky, as designated by the Kentucky State Veterinarian, with a low ratio of practicing veterinarians to livestock in a city with a population of less than twenty-five thousand (25,000) and more than twenty (20) miles from a city with a population of more than fifty thousand (50,000).

Map and information provided by the Deloitte Study, December of 2024

List of supporters to allow Murray State University to offer doctorates in veterinary medicine:

Ballard County Fiscal Court
City of Benton
Calloway County Fiscal Court
Carlisle County Fiscal Court
Christian County Chamber of Commerce
Christian County Fiscal Court
Cumberland County Fiscal Court
United States Congressman James Comer
Crittenden County Fiscal Court
Graves County Fiscal Court
Green River Area Development District
City of Elkton
City of Greenville
Cumberland County Fiscal Court
Farm Credit-Mid America
(Regional Office - Christian County)
H&R Agri-Power - Mr. Wayne Hunt
Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Henderson County Farm Bureau Board District 2
Henderson County Fiscal Court
Hickman County Fiscal Court
Kentucky Dairy Council

Kentucky Farm Bureau District 1 Boards
(Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Todd and Trigg County Farm Bureau Boards)
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Kentucky Pork Producers
Kentucky Poultry Federation
LaRue County Fiscal Court
Livingston County Fiscal Court
Louisville Metro Council
(Councilwoman Jennifer Chappell)
Louisville Zoological Gardens
Lyon County Fiscal Court
Marshall County Fiscal Court
City of Mayfield
McCracken County Fiscal Court
McLean County Fiscal Court
City of Murray
Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce
Murray-Calloway County Economic Development Corporation
Murray State University Alumni Board of Governors

Murray State University Board of Regents
City of Paducah
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce
Pennyrile Area Development District
Purchase Area Development District
Starlight Racing, Louisville, Kentucky
Todd County Fiscal Court
Transylvania University
Trigg County Fiscal Court
United States Senate - Senator Rand Paul
Webster County Fiscal Court
Westside Veterinary Services
West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy (WAVE) River Counties Agriculture Initiative
West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance
(alliance of chambers of commerce in the following counties - Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Carlisle, Ballard, Graves, McCracken, Calloway, Marshall, Livingston, Crittenden, Lyon, Trigg, Caldwell, Christian and Todd County)
Among others ...



“There are currently only 33 Schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. Notably, 22 states do not have a vet school and Kentucky is one of them. We are perhaps the largest agriculturally-focused state without a school of veterinary medicine. We must take good care of this vitally important multi-billion industry.

In 2023, 160 Kentucky applicants applied to DVM programs ... only 67 students were accepted. For over 50 years we have been advancing the discussion and pushing for a school of veterinary medicine at Murray State University in order to serve the agricultural needs of our Commonwealth ... no one else, no other college or university in Kentucky can make this claim.

Importantly, we want to partner with all colleges and universities in Kentucky, public and private, in order to assist our students and all students in the Commonwealth as we address this issue in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner.”

~ Dr. Bob Jackson, President, Murray State University
Legislative Testimony, December 19, 2024



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