

Veterinary Services

Availability and Use of Veterinarians by Small-Scale Livestock Operations

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Outline

- Background
- Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions



Background

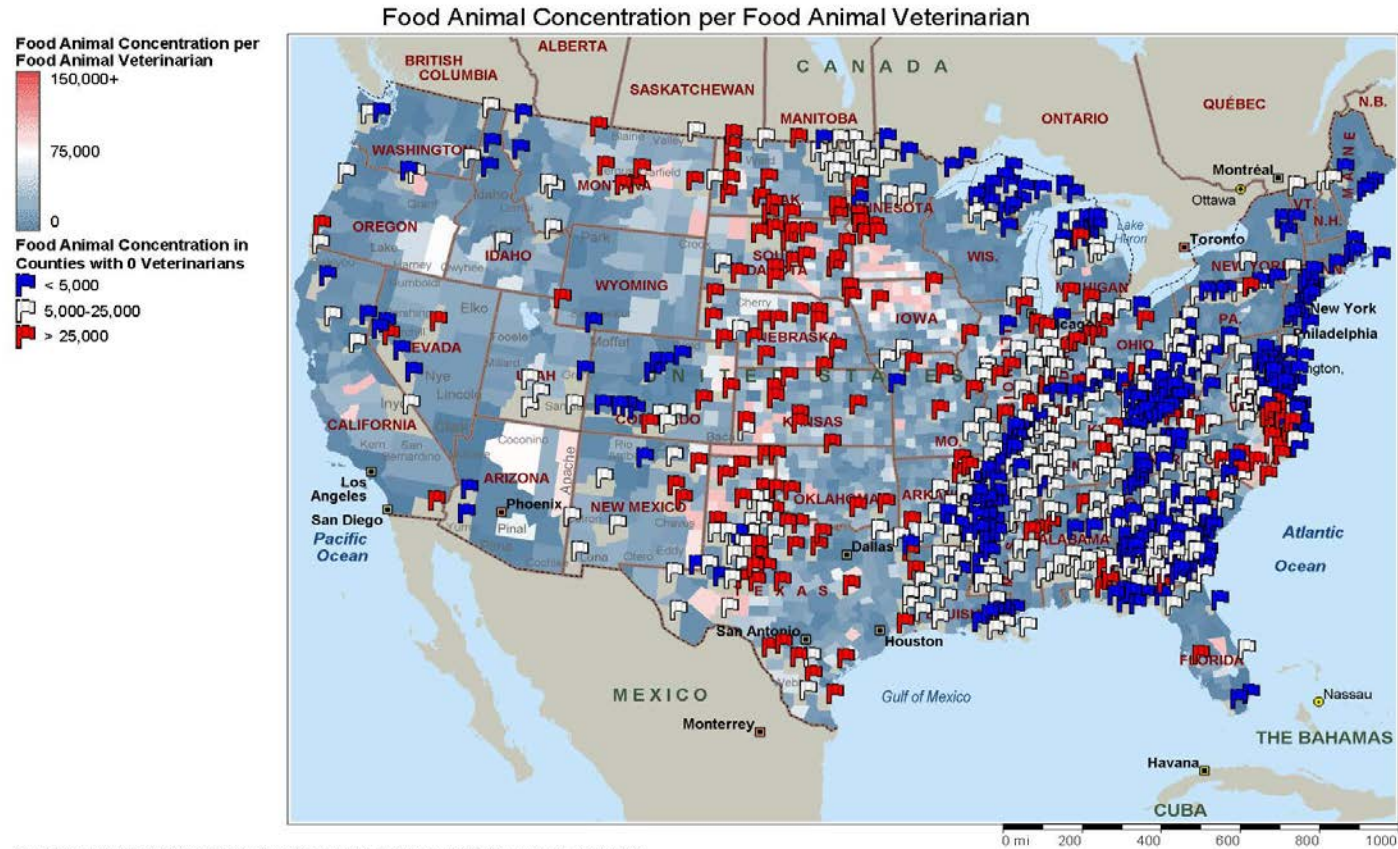
- Shortage of food supply veterinarians?

Future demand, probable shortages, and strategies for creating a better future in food supply veterinary medicine

J. Bruce Prince, PhD; David M. Andrus, PhD; Kevin P. Gwinner, PhD
 JAVMA, Vol 229, No. 1, July 1, 2006

The screenshot shows the AVMA Knowledge Base website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Contact, Join, Store, Career Center, and Sign In. Below this is a search bar and a logo for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The main content area is titled "Food Supply Veterinary Medicine" and includes a sub-header "Protecting America's Food Supply". There are several buttons for more information: "What is Food Supply Veterinary Medicine (FSVM)?", "Why is FSVM important?", "Where is there a shortage of food supply veterinarians in the U.S.?", "How you can help support the need for rural and food supply veterinarians", and "Learn more about FSVM in your state". A map of the United States is also visible on the right side of the page.

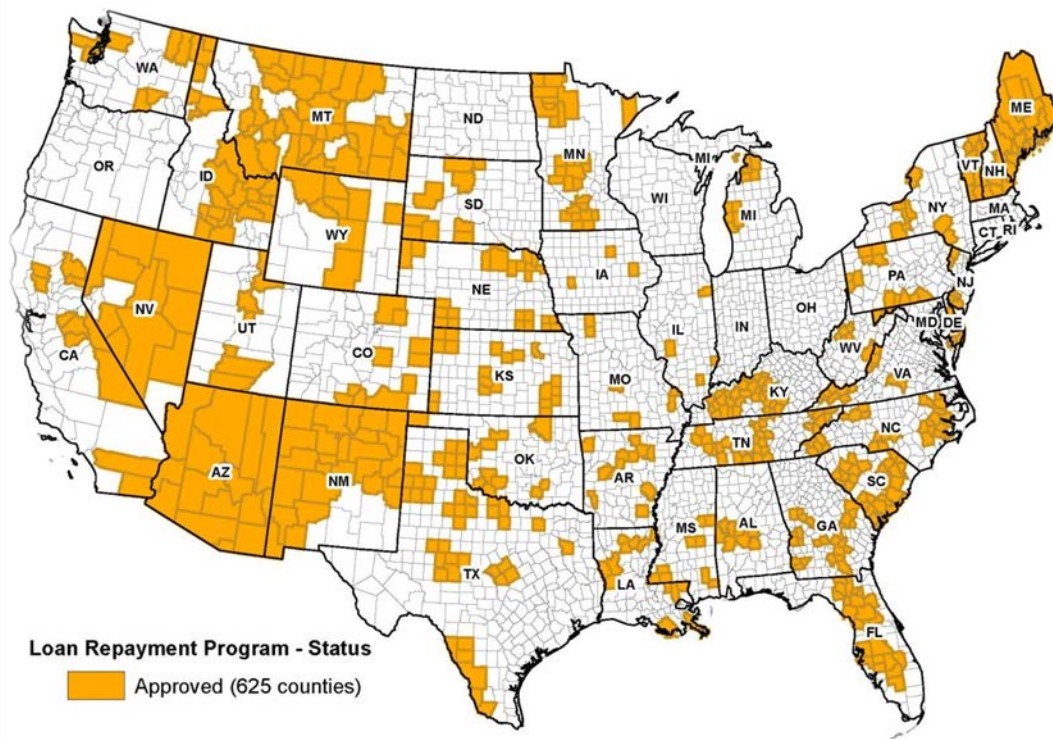
Food Animals Per Veterinarian - FSVMC



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Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

- The VMLRP began in 2010
- The program helps veterinarians repay student loans if they work in designated shortage areas





Objectives

- Small-scale livestock operations
 - Describe use of veterinarians and reasons for not using veterinarians
 - Identify geographic areas (counties) where producers have limited access to veterinarians



Methods

- APHIS National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)
 - In spring 2011, NAHMS surveyed 8,123 producers in all 50 States.
 - The surveys focused on operations with \$10,000-\$499,999 in gross sales/year.
 - Statistical analysis:
 - Weighted population estimates, and
 - Hot-spot analysis (Getis Ord Gi) to identify veterinary shortage areas.

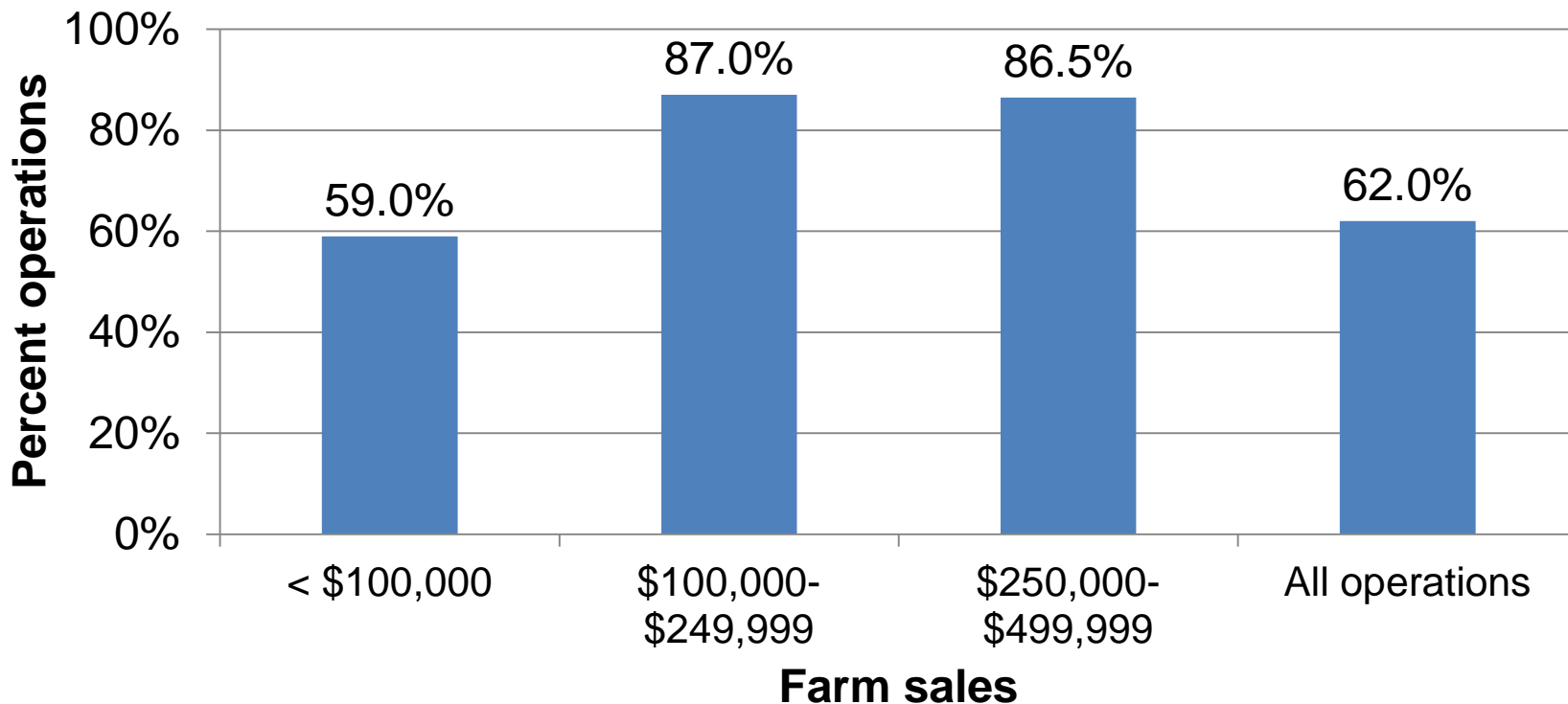
Participating Operations

Primary Animal Species	Percent
Beef cattle	80.1
Dairy cattle	9.6
Horses/equine	3.2
Poultry	2.7
Sheep/goats	2.0
Swine	1.2
Other	1.2
Total	100.0

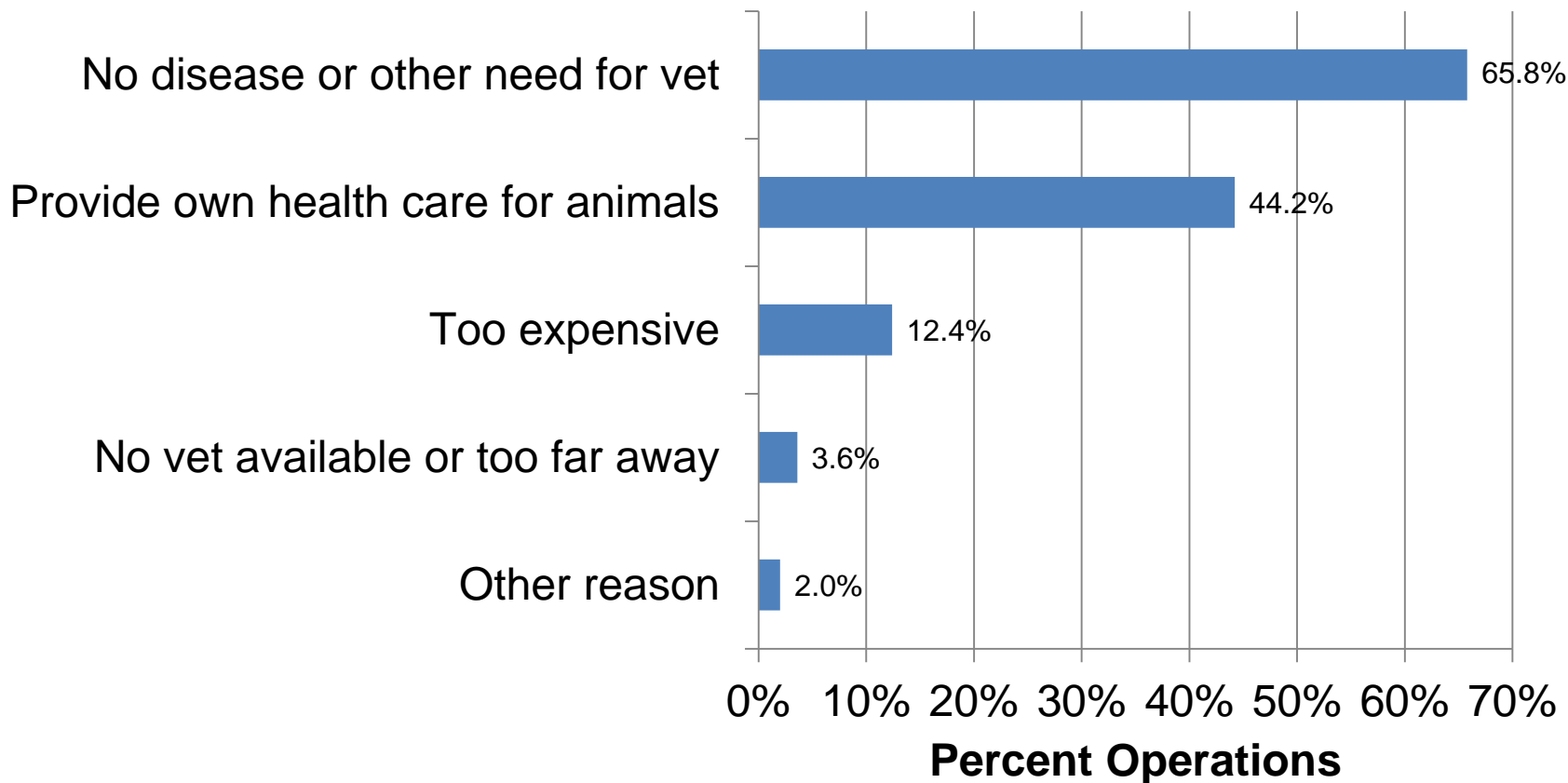


Results

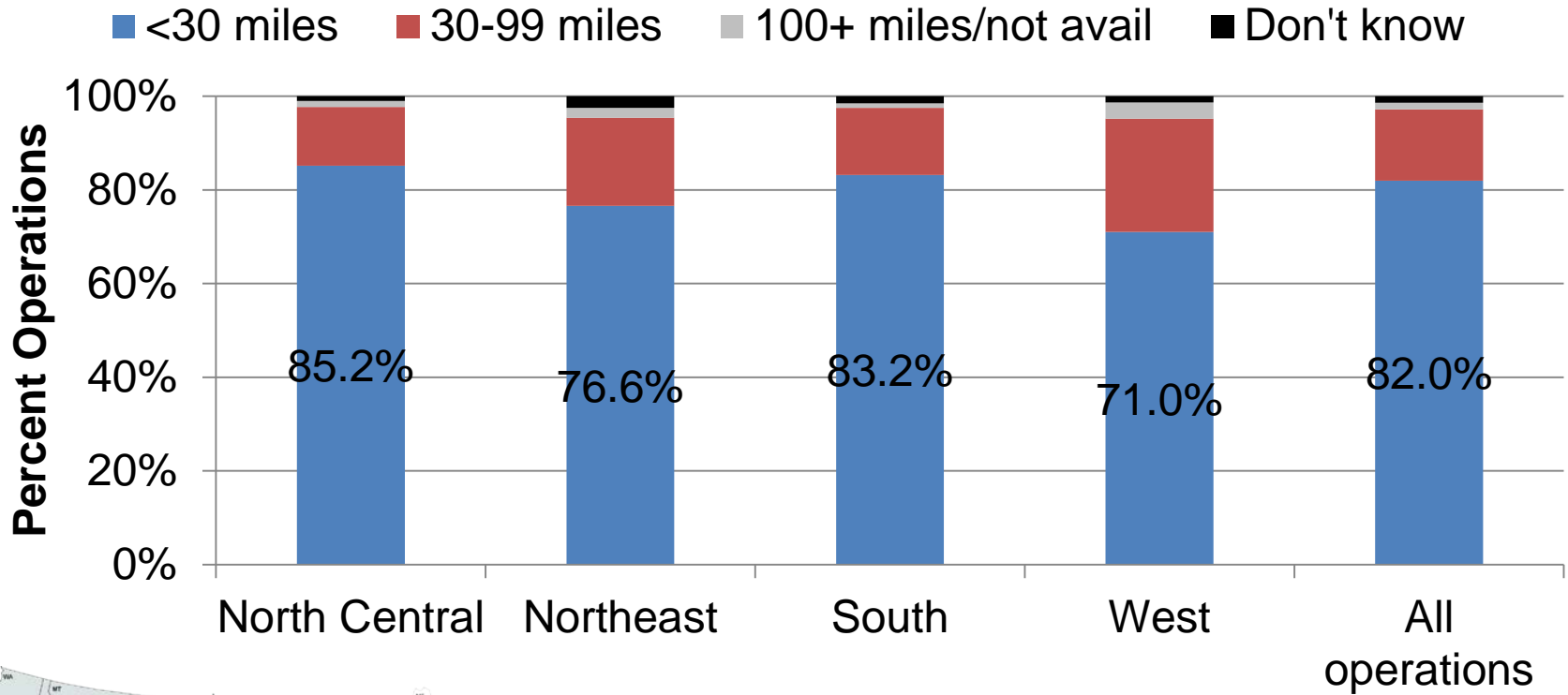
Percentage of operations that used a veterinarian in the previous 12 months, by farm sales



For the 38 percent of operations that did not use a veterinarian, reasons for not using a veterinarian



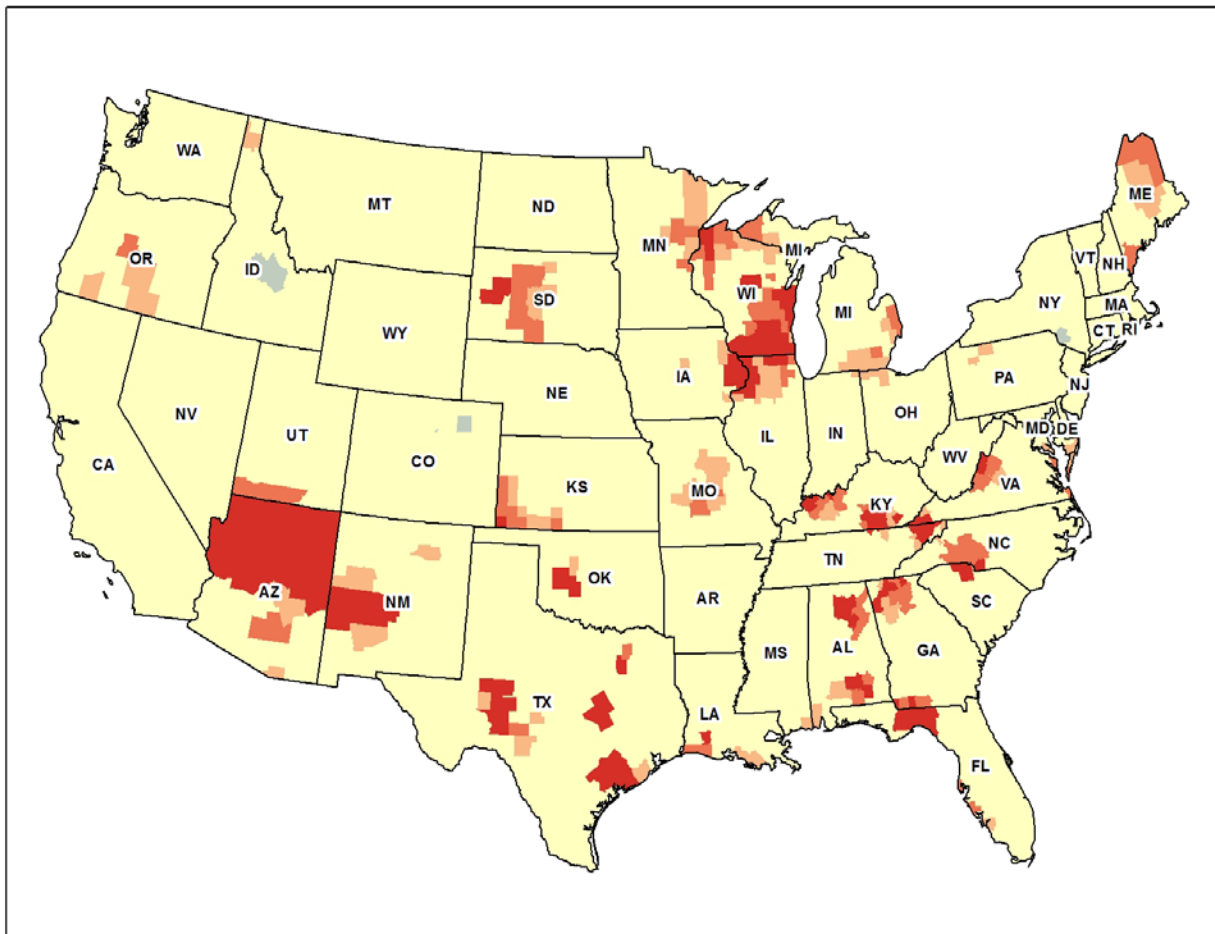
Percentage of operations by distance to nearest veterinarian, by region



- Nearest veterinarian was 100 or more miles away or no veterinarian available:
 - 1.4 percent of operations
 - Estimated 4,969 operations out of 350,000 total small operations in the United States
 - 41 States



Results – Hot Spot Analysis



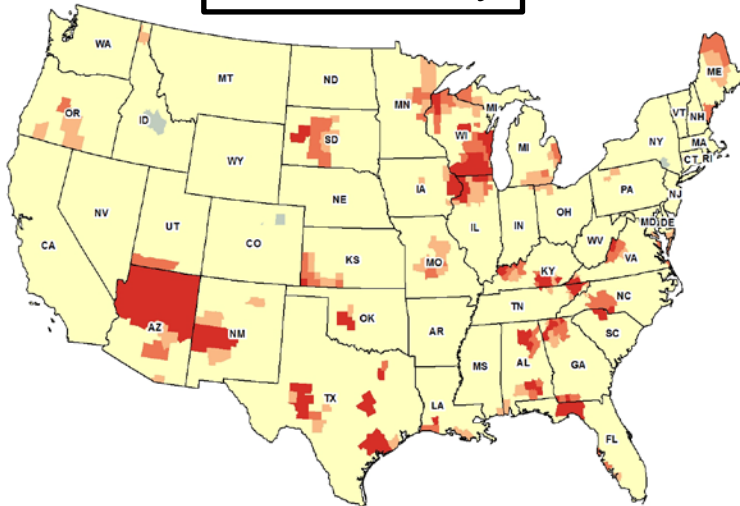
Red = Areas with low access

Limitations

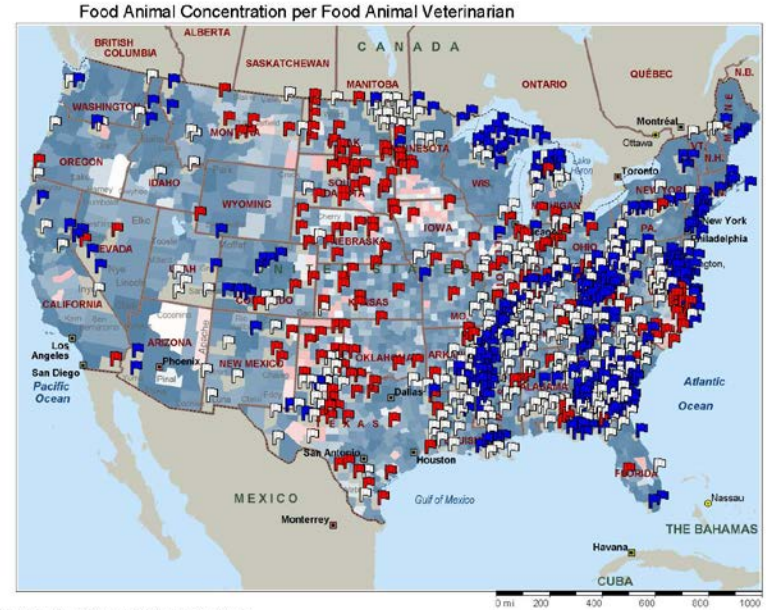
- Distance to veterinarians was estimated by producers
- Distance is not the only factor that affects access to veterinarians
- Results apply only to small-scale operations
- Not all counties were included in study
 - There may be more areas with low access

Conclusions

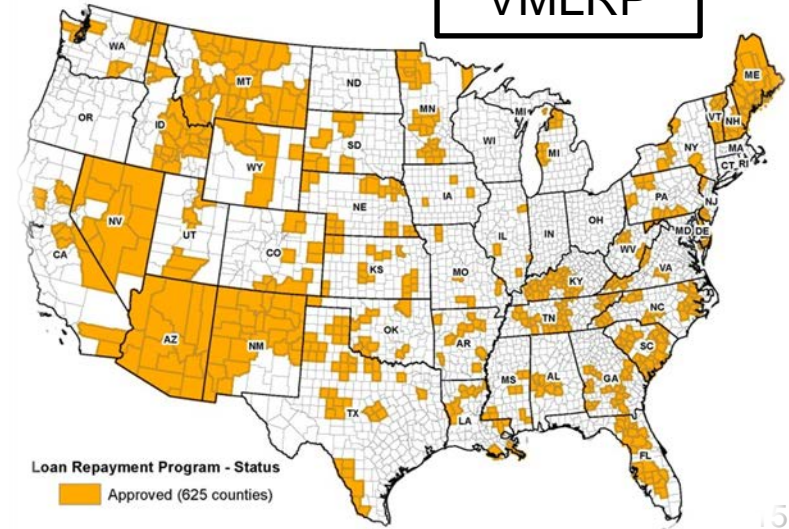
APHIS study



19 percent of hot spot counties were listed as 2011 VMLRP shortage areas



VMLRP



Conclusions



- 62.0 percent of operations used a veterinarian
 - Most common reason for not using a veterinarian: “No disease or other need.”
- Veterinary shortage (100+ miles or not available)
 - 1.4 percent of operations
 - Multiple areas spread across United States
 - Combining data sources can help define areas with potential for low veterinarian access
- Shortfall in number of food animal veterinarians in private practice?
 - About 80 percent had a veterinarian available within 30 miles

Acknowledgments

- M.J. McCool
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- Chris Koprak
- Dawn Thilmany
 - CSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Questions?

