

Big Lakes County Policy

Livestock Veterinary Services Bursary

Policy Number:	ASB-21
Legal Authority:	<i>Agricultural Services Board Act; Municipal Government Act</i>
Approved by Council:	May 25, 2022
Effective Date:	May 25, 2022
Revised Date:	January 24, 2024

1. Policy Statement

Big Lakes County will implement a Livestock Veterinary Services Bursary Program to help incentivize veterinarians, veterinary students, and registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) interested in or who have a focus on livestock to provide their skills and expertise within County boundaries.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

“Agreement” shall refer to the agreements signed between Big Lakes County and bursary recipients to ensure their residence and/or employment in the County.

“Applicant” shall refer to any individual who has applied for the Livestock Veterinary Services Bursary Program.

“Bursary Year” shall refer, in the case of non-student Recipients, to the period commencing on the date the Agreement is made and ending on the one-year anniversary of that same date.

“County” shall refer to Big Lakes County. This includes any Hamlets, Towns, Metis Settlements, First Nations Reserves or Localities located within Big Lakes County boundaries.

“Livestock” shall refer to animals being reared for agricultural purposes.

“Post-Secondary” shall refer to a post-secondary program designated for provincial funding by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

“Recipient” shall refer to anyone who has successfully completed the Livestock Veterinary Services Bursary Program application and has received bursary funding.

3. Delivery of Program

Big Lakes County will be responsible for the implementation of the bursary program and will monitor the Recipient's status at least once per year (for annual bursary recipients) or once per seasonal employment or practicum period (for student bursary recipients), verify their location of employment, verify their academic enrollment status (in the case of students), and confirm their residence within Big Lakes County, or another municipality approved by the County.

4. Eligibility Requirements:

4.1. Complete an application through the Big Lakes County grants department either by paper copy or emailed to the grants department.

4.2. Supply a minimum of two (2) letters of reference.

4.3. If the Applicant is a student, they must also:

- a. Be enrolled full-time in a recognized, Canadian post-secondary veterinarian medicine program; and
- b. Disclose in the Big Lakes County Bursary Application Form the names of other bursaries approved during the current year and the amount they were approved for.

5. Bursary Amounts

5.1. Applicants may apply for bursary funding in the following amounts:

- a. \$20,000, annually for a veterinarian;
- b. \$8,000, annually, for an RVT; or
- c. \$1,000/month to a maximum of \$4,000 per year per student to a combined maximum of \$12,000 available for students taking practicum placements or summer work opportunities in Big Lakes County

5.2. A total of \$40,000 of bursary will be provided with priority given in keeping with section 8.

6. The Grants Officer (or designate) shall:

6.1. Review applications to ensure sufficient information is provided and that the Applicant meets eligibility requirements as per Section 4 and adheres to commitments as per Section 7, and then;

6.2. Present applications to Council as they are received.

7. All Recipients shall:

7.1. Sign a contract to commit to live within the County, or other municipality approved by the County, and work within the County for the term of the Agreement. Recipients will be required to submit proof of residency and employment.

7.2. If a non-Student Recipient has received a bursary and wishes to re-apply for the bursary in the following year, they must let the County know at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Bursary Year.

7.3. All Recipients who do not fulfill the requirement to live and work within the County, or other municipality approved by the County, must repay any bursary amount paid to them on a prorated basis, as outlined in the Agreement.

7.4. The Recipient must agree to commit to being available to perform both acute and long-term livestock veterinary services within peak seasons of need inclusive of emergency care and provision of adequately diverse routine services including, but not limited to, herd health supports, diagnostics, pregnancy checking, and semen testing.

8. Priority

Two working vets are eligible for both bursaries each fiscal year. If not being filled, priority will be given to one RVT followed by a maximum of \$12,000 worth of student bursaries.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Final Signature