

Table 1. **Summary of Forum Comments by Region**

<b>Categories of Comments</b>		East (n = 18)	Middle (n = 19)	West (n = 8)
<b>Societal Needs</b>				
1.	Farmers need competent, well-trained large animal veterinarians located within a reasonable distance.	6	5	5
2.	Research, new technologies, and programs for disease control are critical in maintaining a safe and healthy livestock industry.	3	3	2
3.	Society as a whole as a whole has a stake in food animal health and it is crucial that we maintain an adequate supply of veterinarians in the public health arena.	3	4	3
4.	Veterinarians are on the front line for those diseases that spread from animals to humans. We cannot afford to be without veterinarians trained to deal with bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, food safety, et cetera.	5	3	3
5.	The general perception is that there is a shortage of large-animal or food animal veterinarians or that there will be a shortage beginning within the next ten years.	7	8	8
<b>Economics</b>				
1.	Farming and veterinary practices are constantly evolving and must continue to evolve in a way that is economical for both.	5	8	1
2.	Too often the use of veterinarian services tends to be put off or ignored as farmers try to reduce their costs.	7	10	4
3.	While there must be reasonable safeguards, producers and practitioners need to provide routine healthcare to their animals without excessive bureaucracy or the threat of having charges brought against them for violating laws.	2	3	2
4.	Veterinarians should be involved in herd management programs and marketing programs where they are responsible for health verification of cattle or for pre-conditioning programs.	6	4	3
5.	Financial assistance needs to be available for transferring a veterinary practice from a retiring practitioner to a new practitioner to keep service in an area uninterrupted.	2	2	2
6.	Many of the services provided in years past are being offered by lay people with less training.	8	7	3

7.	The debt load of students graduating in veterinary medicine is extremely high. More than 75 percent of veterinary students face some \$80,000 in debt related to their education when they get out of school.	8	8	4
8.	Some sort of economic incentives need to be made available from either state or federal government for veterinarians willing to practice in rural areas or on large or food animals.	6	3	3
9.	Small animal practices are perceived as higher-paying jobs requiring fewer hours in a more controlled environment.	8	8	5
<b>Education</b>				
1.	Most of the people applying for vet school are from urban backgrounds and are not interested in large-animal care.	3	2	3
2.	Colleges should emphasize rigorous preparatory courses in undergraduate programs and in youth recruiting efforts, especially in rural areas, to adequately prepare youth.	7	5	5
3.	Colleges should recruit more students interested in being large-animal veterinarians and students from rural backgrounds. They should also reintroduce animal science backgrounds as an admissions prerequisite.	8	8	8
4.	Colleges should increase the exposure of veterinary students to food-animal veterinary instructors and internships as well as increase the courses offered and training opportunities available to students interested in food-animal practices.	9	7	5
5.	Colleges and organizations need to do a better job of letting students know what jobs are available and where they're available.	4	3	3
6.	Food-animal practices are too physically demanding for women. This is problematic as women comprise the greatest number of veterinary students.	6	4	3
7.	The UT College of Veterinary Medicine should increase its class size	1	0	0
8.	The UT College of Veterinary Medicine should increase the number of in-state students admitted.	1	0	0