

Submitter: Joseph Snyder
On Behalf Of: Veterinarians and Farmers
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1539

Dear Friends,

I am a retired veterinarian who worked for decades in Myrtle Point (rural Coos County) for ranchers and dairymen, a job that required pregnancy determination for thousands of animals. On a number of these operations there were "trained" non-veterinarian employees or owners who were doing pregnancy determination, but one by one they asked me to take that responsibility over because the veterinary training and skills provided an outcome that was a significant improvement and higher return on investment. The argument that veterinarians are not available in some places is spurious. When producers choose to use drug salesmen and Dr. Google for their animal health management and only grumpily employ a veterinarian for emergencies that are often the result of those practices, they drive veterinarians out of rural and farm animal practice. Our clients found, again sometimes one by one, that using the services of a quality veterinarian as part of a total animal health and profitability scheme gained much more financially that what was lost by only utilizing those "free" services. Ranchers that complain about the lack of veterinarians generally have themselves to blame, if that is not overly blunt.

Yours respectfully,

Joseph Snyder, DVM (license now given up in retirement)