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WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

February 17, 2011

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Animal Medicines To Play Vital Role In Food Security

Science has a vital role to play in this, and the industry respects the need for appropriate regulation that protects human health and animal health and welfare, at the same time as allowing technological advance. Growing public confidence in scientific advancement is an important part of this. The National Office of Animal Health (NOAH) held its fourth Food Chain conference, *Feeding the World*, at the Royal Society on Tuesday, 15 February 2011.

NOAH Chief Executive Phil Sketchley said: "The NOAH event this year has been about Feeding the World and we have looked at how those of us in the animal health industry can help meet the challenge of increasing demand for protein- based food, both in the developed countries and emerging nations of the world.

[‘Meeting Growing Production Demands with Integrity’ Theme of National Institute for Animal Agriculture Conference]

Calling all NIAA members!

If you have a news item to be considered for inclusion in a future issue of the *News & Information for Animal Agriculture* newsletter, please e-mail it to Katie Ambrose at Katie.Ambrose@AnimalAgriculture.org.

The current edition of ***News and Information for Animal Agriculture***, the official newsletter of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

Click here to view the newsletter

The Cattle Site, 2/16

Obama’s Proposed Budget Includes $150 Million for Kansas Bio-lab

The 2012 budget proposed by President Barack Obama includes $150 million for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, confirming Washington’s commitment to animal health and food safety research. Obama submitted the proposed budget to Congress on Monday. The $150 million for the project in next year’s budget will begin construction of the lab, located on Kansas State University’s campus in Manhattan, Kan., and covers almost a quarter of the $650 million project.

The center will be operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Department of Agriculture. Upon its expected completion in 2017, the lab will study deadly animal diseases and their threat to public health.

The Kansas City Star/ Drover’s, 2/16

'Foodshed': Defining Local Marketplace from Farm Gate to Dinner Plate

The term “foodshed” continues to gain favor in the locavore’s lexicon. Equated to a watershed where surface water from rain and melting snow converge to a single drainage point, a foodshed outlines the flow of food feeding a particular area, from the farm gate to the dinner plate. Locavores like to use the term “foodshed” to promote local food systems, and such retailers as Whole Foods Market are picking up on the term in their marketing efforts to consumers. Very often a foodshed encompasses a simple 100 mile radius.

American Farm Bureau Federation, 2/16

USDA Projects Growth in U.S. Livestock Production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s long-term agricultural projections, released this week, indicate that U.S. beef and pork production will enter an expansion phase over the next few years, largely because of demand in export markets.

Drovers, 2/15

Budding Calif. Cheese Industry Gets Grilled By FDA

Watch out Wisconsin: Northern California has become a hub — some say *the* hub — for cheese making, especially farm-based specialty cheeses. But high-profile recalls of cheese made with unpasteurized milk have put an unwelcome spotlight on the industry. Now officials say they may tighten the rules on raw milk cheese — perhaps banning it altogether.

National Public Radio, 2/15

2011 ISU Animal Industry Report Available

The 2011 Iowa State University (ISU) Animal Industry Report is now available online. This report features a variety of animal industry-related research done at ISU which was supported by the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station. Maynard Hogberg, chair of the ISU animal science department, said this year’s edition has more than 90 articles organized under nine categories.

The report, including a table of contents, is available on the AIR portion of the ISU animal science department website: http://www.ans.iastate.edu/report/air.

Pork Network, 2/15

Public Health Worries After Foot and Mouth Epidemic in South Korea

The severe foot and mouth epidemic that started in South Korea at the end of November could have even more

serious repercussions for public health. Some 3m head of livestock have already been slaughtered but now the environment ministry is concerned about burial of the carcasses.

Under the pressure of events some cattle were buried alive and the authorities sometimes failed to take the necessary precautions: digging pits four or five metres deep and lining them with two layers of plastic sheeting. Farm animals were buried at more than 4,000 sites, often in easily accessible spots, for instance beside rivers.
Guardian, UK, 2/15

New Mastitis Antibiotic Rated in Top 10 Discoveries of 2010

Dr. François Malouin from the University of Sherbrooke made the front pages of the magazine Quebec Science for his work on finding new antibiotic treatment for mastitis in cattle. The new discovery at the University of Sherbrooke, which appears, in the top 10 discoveries of 2010, according to Quebec Science (in its latest edition) is a new generation of antibiotics that could revolutionize the medical world. This is the culmination of hard work on the part of the multi-disciplinary team at the University of Sherbrooke, who has just discovered a new family of antibiotics that can fight against bacteria that are showing more and more resistant to traditional treatments.
Vets Web, 2/14

Ag Committee Republicans Stress the Negative Impact of Federal Regs on Production Agriculture & Rural Economies

Today, Republican members of the Agriculture Committee, led by Chairman Frank Lucas, spoke on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of H. Res. 72, a resolution that instructs various committees to investigate existing, pending, and proposed regulations that hurt job creation and economic growth. Members of the committee addressed the many regulatory burdens farmers, ranchers, and small business owners are facing in rural America.
Click here for an excerpt from their remarks.
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, 2/11

Feds Ease Sanctions for Brucellosis in Livestock

New federal rules ease sanctions against states bordering Yellowstone National Park when livestock get infected with the disease brucellosis - but leave unresolved the more nettlesome problem of infected wildlife.

Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture rules, ranchers with a handful of cattle infected with the reproductive disease no longer risk losing their entire herds to slaughter. Nor do states automatically lose their coveted "disease-free" status - a past practice that cost the industry tens of millions of dollars in lost sales and expenses.

The most significant change for wildlife is increased disease monitoring for species like bison and elk that carry brucellosis.
Forbes.com, 2/14

New Dairy Cow Handling Rules Brewing in Ohio

The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board continues to formulate new animal welfare rules for livestock, poultry and egg producers in the state. Scott Higgins, CEO of the Ohio Dairy Producers Association, serves on the subcommittee that is developing rules for the state's dairy industry. He says the recommendations will cover the gamut—from basic standards such as animal cleanliness and clean bedding, to more painful procedures such as dehorning and castration.
Brownfield Network, 2/11

FDA Milk Testing Program Meets Opposition

The FDA has introduced a program for testing milk for the presence of antibiotics, concentrating on dairies with previous violations. The problem relates to the need to withhold milk until microbiological assay results are obtained.

Concern over antibiotic residues in milk stems from test performed on culled cows in which residue violations were detected from in 788 out of 2.6 million slaughtered animals in 2008. The FDA contends that inappropriate administration of therapeutic antibiotics may be leading to a problem of milk residues. Accordingly they intend to test for approximately 20 antibiotics beyond the six that are frequently included in antibiotic panels.
WATT Ag Net, 2/11

Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program Announced

The USDA recently announced an initiative to assist agricultural producers in identifying and implementing energy efficiency measures on their farms. The On-Farm Energy Audit/Implementation Initiative is offered through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Through the program, EQIP-eligible producers can obtain detailed energy audits for free and assistance to implement audit recommendations. On average, an energy audit identifies $3,500 in on-farm annual savings with an average payback of one to three years. To apply for this program, visit or call your local NRCS service center and fill out a brief application by February 25, 2011. NRCS Service Center contact information is available at http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/.
Dairylea, 2/11

Canada Invests $3.7 Million to Strengthen Swine Traceability

The Government of Canada has announced an investment of more than $3.7 million to strengthen the Canadian Pork

Council's national swine traceability system, bringing the total investment for this initiative up to $7 million. The Canadian Pork Council's traceability system, PigTrace Canada, is designed to track the movement of hogs across the country. Phase 1 of this initiative focused on the creation of a tag distribution system for hogs, while Phase 2 will focus on combining swine movement information into a national centralized database. "There is no doubt that a strong traceability system benefits Canadian producers, the value chain and consumers alike," said Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. "This investment will help the Canadian Pork Council continue the development of its hog traceability system and give our hog farmers the competitive edge they need to access markets around the world."
Watts Ag Net, 2/11

Livestock Boom Risks Aggravating Animal 'Plagues,' Poses Growing Threat to Food Security and Health of World's Poor

Increasing numbers of domestic livestock and more resource-intensive production methods are encouraging animal epidemics around the world, a problem that is particularly acute in developing countries, where livestock diseases present a growing threat to the food security of already vulnerable populations, according to new assessments reported today at the International Conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition & Health in New Delhi, India.

'Wealthy countries are effectively dealing with livestock diseases, but in Africa and Asia, the capacity of veterinary services to track and control outbreaks is lagging dangerously behind livestock intensification,' said John McDermott, deputy director general for research at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), which spearheaded the work. 'This lack of capacity is particularly dangerous because many poor people in the world still rely on farm animals to feed their families, while rising demand for meat, milk and eggs among urban consumers in the developing world is fueling a rapid intensification of livestock production.'
International Livestock Research Institute, 2/10

Horse Registration Bill Stirs Opposition

A bill proposed in the Oregon Legislature would require that horse owners pay up to $100 apiece for equine ownership certificates, but observers don't expect the bill to survive the session. The bill had a first reading Jan. 10, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. However, committee member Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton) has said the chair – Sen. Jackie Dingfelder – doesn't plan to schedule a hearing on the bill.

The bill's promoter, Lindy Minten of Scio, said she wants to protect horses from abuse by requiring that owners have the certificates, and penalizing those who do not provide horses with food, water and rest.In news stories, Minten said she wants to stop horse traders from taking in neglected or unwanted horses, then turning around to sell them for slaughter or to other horse traders. The certification would enable the tracking of animals, eliminating this "flipping," she said.
Blue Mountain Eagle, 2/9

North Dakota Considers Bill Allowing Police, Vets to Seize Animals

Legislators in North Dakota have introduced a bill that would allow police and veterinarians to seize animals they believe are being treated inhumanely. A public hearing on the measure is set for Friday, Feb. 11, 2011.

As introduced, Senate Bill 2365 would grant a law enforcement officer or licensed veterinarian the right to take custody and control of an animal if there is "reasonable cause to believe" that the animal has been subjected to activity prohibited by state laws pertaining to the humane treatment of animals. The measure would allow law enforcement officers to seize an animal without a warrant or court order.
Pet Product News, 2/9

Outbreaks: A Tool to Track Animal Diseases May Help to Protect Humans

A new online mapping tool will enable scientists and the public to track outbreaks of animal diseases that might jump to humans. The tool, known as Predict, will be at www.healthmap.org/predict. Created with a grant from the United States Agency for International Development, it is being produced by experts on human and animal diseases from a few institutions, scientists announced on Monday at a conference here on emerging diseases.
New York Times, 2/7

'Meeting Growing Production Demands with Integrity' Theme of National Institute for Animal Agriculture Conference

The opening general session, "Elements of a Stable Food Supply," will frame the Conference program and outline the challenges to animal agriculture. The program will establish and illustrate the need for food as well as the demands that will be placed on producers.

Opening general session topics and presenters:

- "Food Security and the Implications of World Economic Conditions and the Role of Animal Agriculture" –Dr. Terry Barr, Senior Director of Industry Research, *CoBank, Washington, D.C.*

- "The Overarching Demand for Food and Implications for Resource Use and Ecosystems" –Dr. Frank Mitloehner, Associate Professor and Air Quality Extension Specialist, *University of California-Davis, Davis, Calif.*

- **"**Consumers' Perceptions and Role in Understanding Current and Future Production Practices**" –** Mr. Charlie Arnot, *Center for Food Integrity, Kansas City, Mo.*

Individuals wishing to register for this national conference may do so at www.animalagriculture.org. Qualifying media receive a complimentary registration. To learn more about the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's "Meeting Growing Production Demands with Integrity" Annual Conference, please call NIAA at 719-538-8843.
National Institute for Animal Agriculture, 2/1

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The National Institute for Animal Agriculture provides a forum for building consensus and advancing proactive solutions for animal agriculture-the beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goats, equine and poultry industries-and provides continuing education and communication linkages for animal agriculture professionals. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of disease that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. NIAA members represent all facets of animal agriculture.