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NIAA Annual Meeting: Speakers Hit Mark, Consensus Results in Resolutions

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—Information, education and consensus—those three areas received an overwhelming amount of attention at the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's annual meeting, March 31-April 1, in Louisville, Ky.

Under the umbrella of "The Changing Face of Animal Agriculture," NIAA's opening general session featured seven speakers—Dr. James MacDonald, chief, Agricultural Structure and Productivity Branch, Economic Research Service, USDA; Jon Caspers, chairman, Meat Export Federation; Lisa Katic, nutritionist and president of KConsulting; Frank Beurskens, Co-Founder and CEO, *ShoptoCook™, Inc.*; Bill Medley, vice president, Market Segments, *Farm Credit Services of Mid-America*; and Jerry Roell, sales branch manager, *John Deere Columbus*—who received rave reviews for their to-the-point presentations that were peppered with numerous "ah-ha" moments.

"This opening general session was unique and covered the gamut. Many attendees left wishing all of animal agriculture could hear what they heard," stated Dr. Leonard Bull, NIAA's chairman of the board. "I lost count of the number of people who said this was the best set of speakers they had heard at any event—not just NIAA but any event—in the past several years."

In addition to absorbing information from the opening general session speakers, conference attendees were privileged to hear additional speakers address hot topics at the event's five species-oriented committee meetings and seven issues-based committee meetings. And it was at these 12 committee sessions where consensus was reached among committee members—who represented producers, veterinarians, researchers, academicians, government regulatory personnel, allied industry and others passionate about animal agriculture—and resolutions were adopted, amended or reaffirmed.

NIAA's committees adopting resolutions included Animal Care Committee, "A Need for Guidelines for Animal Welfare"; Cattle Committee, "U.S. Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program"; and Equine Committee, "Equine Infectious Animals." Additional action among all committees included amending 17 resolutions and reaffirming 14 resolutions.

“According to NIAA bylaws, the reaffirmed resolutions would have been sunsetted had not reaffirmation occurred,” Dr. Bull explains. “In other words, the individuals at the various species-specific and issues-specific committees felt strongly enough about certain resolutions that they kept them as resolutions. Their reaffirmation signals a need for attention by government and/or industry to these areas.”

A complete listing of resolutions adopted, amended or reaffirmed is available on NIAA’s website at <http://www.animalagriculture.org/About%20NIAA/Resolutions/Current/All.pdf>

Presentations given at NIAA’s opening general session can be heard and viewed at Truffle Media’s web site: <http://www.trufflemedia.com/home/content/2009-the-changing-face-of-agriculture>

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture provides a forum for building consensus and advancing 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 from 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.

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