



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **NIAA Presents Three with Distinguished Awards**

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO— The National Institute for Animal Agriculture honored three outstanding individuals at its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 31, in Louisville, Ky. These individuals were handpicked from among NIAA's membership which is comprised of 213 animal agriculture organizations and individuals from the beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goat, equine and poultry industries. Membership includes national and state livestock, poultry and equine organizations as well as veterinarians, government regulatory personnel, academia, researchers, extension specialists, producers and allied industry businesses and organizations.

Dr. Sam Holland, the former state veterinarian for the South Dakota Animal Industry Board, was presented the NIAA's highly regarded Meritorious Service Award which is given in recognition of leadership, dedication and contributions to the organization and animal agriculture. Holland retired from the South Dakota Animal Industry Board on March 6 of this year after serving 22 years on the board and another 15 years devoted to industry as a large animal practitioner.

The organization's coveted President's Award which recognizes an NIAA committee chairman for exemplary leadership and dedication to NIAA was presented to Dr. Lanny Pace, executive director of the Mississippi Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory System. Dr. Pace heads NIAA's Emerging Diseases Committee which is dedicated to helping animal agriculture stay abreast of emerging animal diseases, educating NIAA members and others within animal agriculture about emerging animal diseases and in creating resolutions and position statements regarding emerging animal disease issues, which are aimed at benefiting animal health and U.S. animal agriculture.

Pam Meador, a nine-year employee of NIAA, received NIAA's Chairman Award. Although this award is typically given to an NIAA volunteer, Chairman Len Bull opted to recognize Ms. Meador for her dedication as NIAA's director of operations and the many other hats she wears during a typical work day.

"NIAA's mission is to provide a forum for building consensus and advancing proactive solutions for animal agriculture, and it is individuals such as Dr. Holland, Dr. Pace and Ms. Meador who help us stay focused and ensure the sustainability of animal agriculture to the benefit of all society," Dr. Bull stated.

*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.*

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*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.*

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