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Dr. Richard Breitmeyer Honored by NIAA

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.— Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, director of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory system headquartered at the University of California, Davis, was presented the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's prestigious Chairman's Award during the organization's annual conference, April 11-14, in San Antonio, Texas. The Chairman's Award is given to an outstanding volunteer for his unselfish dedication and tireless devotion to the advancement of animal agriculture.

"Dr. Breitmeyer's leadership style is timeless, his mind is brilliant, his way of being is first class and his dedication to animal agriculture has advanced it by leaps and bounds," states Dr. Robert Fourdraine, Chairman of NIAA's Board. "He has an outstanding record of working effectively with livestock producers, veterinarians and public health officials at the state and federal level. In addition, he has worked tirelessly to help develop a collaborative relationship between NIAA and the U.S. Animal Health Association.

"We in animal agriculture are extremely fortunate to work with a man with such vast experience, worldly knowledge and servant's heart."

Breitmeyer joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture as a veterinary medical officer in 1984. He was appointed California's first state veterinarian in 1993 and served in that position under three governors until 2010. As state veterinarian of California, Breitmeyer had statutory authority to quarantine domestic animals or food from animal products when necessary to protect the health and safety of animals and the public. He provided advice to the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom. He is also credited with establishing quality assurance programs in food safety for the poultry and dairy industries and contributing to the Foreign Animal Disease Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that unites and advances animal agriculture—the beef, dairy, equine, goat, poultry, sheep and swine industries. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promotes a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promotes best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. NIAA members include farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials and business leaders.

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Richard Breitmeyer

