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Dr. Taylor Woods Honored by NIAA

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.— Dr. Taylor Woods, Missouri Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian and Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division, was presented the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's highly esteemed Meritorious Service Award during the organization's annual conference, April 11-14, in San Antonio, Texas. NIAA's Meritorious Service Award is given in recognition of leadership, dedication and contributions to the organization and animal agriculture.

"Dr. Woods is rural leadership at its finest," states Dr. Robert Fourdraine, Chairman of NIAA's Board. "As a young man he was taught hard work, humility, honesty, fairness and respect for all individuals regardless of their background or circumstances and has translated these into valuable leadership attributes.

"Dr. Woods is a dedicated servant whose passion, energy and drive are apparent in everything he does. To say that animal agriculture is fortunate to have a person of this caliber and dedication is an understatement."

Woods began his regulatory career in the State Meat Inspection program with the Missouri Department of Agriculture in 1971. Forty years later, he's still involved in large animal veterinary medicine and animal health regulation.

For all his accomplishments, Woods says he is most proud of the eradication of brucellosis from Missouri's swine and cattle herds. Other activities to his credit are initiating the indemnity payment for backyard flocks during poultry disease outbreaks requiring depopulation, implementing important protocols to aid the eradication of pseudorabies virus in swine and developing the Equine Infection Anemia (EIA) programs in Missouri and Arkansas.

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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