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"Agroterrorism" looms over food animal producers, industry



The following is an interview with NIAA Chairman of the Board Richard D. Hull, DVM. Dr. Hull is state veterinarian and chief of the Bureau of Animal Health in Illinois, a post

he has held since 1992. Prior to becoming state veterinarian, Dr. Hull operated a large animal veterinary practice in Griggsville, Ill. for 34 years.

Animal Agriculture Quarterly (AAQ): Is U.S. animal agriculture facing a higher risk of an intentional foreign animal disease introduction since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center?

HULL: The answer is yes. Not only has our awareness heightened, but also the risks. The simplicity of introducing not only a foreign animal disease, but also one of zoonotic potential, is alarming.

AAQ: Should the U.S. livestock industry be worried about the recent

anthrax scares in Florida, Washington, D.C. and New York?

HULL: No, for the following reasons. The amount of *Bacillus anthracis* organisms required to infect a susceptible animal is quite high. Also, there is not a delivery system that has the capability of inseminating the bacteria effectively.

Furthermore, Anthrax is not a highly communicable disease in animals. The oral route is the most common path of entry of the bacteria into the host animal.

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NIAA postpones international study tour

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has announced that it will postpone the international study tour to France scheduled for December.

"The uncertainty caused by the terrorist actions of September 11, the subsequent build-up of military forces, and the potential impact this could continue to have on air travel are the reasons that the NIAA Board of Directors have taken this action," said Glenn Slack, NIAA President and Chief Executive Officer.

He said that the NIAA Board of Directors in making the decision felt that rescheduling for sometime in 2002 might provide ample time for much of the uncertainty to fade away.

Slack said that he and the organiza-

tion are still very much committed to providing this continuing education program for animal agriculture and animal health professionals. "The program for the study tour to France was shaping up to exceed expectations," said Slack. "This was going to be a very unique opportunity for our participants. It will be a unique opportunity for participants in 2002."

Slack said that he is working with Dr. Will Hueston, director of the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, who is serving as the program coordinator for the study tour, and with contacts in France to identify a suitable date to reschedule for next year.

"Agroterrorism" (continued from page 1)

Should an incidence occur, control and prevention measures are relatively simple: vaccination of susceptible livestock in the area and, if the animal is not morbid when found, the use of antibiotics that are indicated for B anthracis.

AAQ: What steps have you taken, if any, in Illinois since September 11 to prepare for agroterrorism?

HULL: We have taken action in several ways.

First, a white sheet has been prepared by the Bureau of Animal Health staff entitled "What Veterinarians Should Know About Anthrax". This will be mailed out to about 2500 animal agriculture veterinarians around the state.

Second, Governor Ryan has organized a series of Homeland Defense Sessions across the state to address the state's preparedness for bioterrorism. This program will be in collaboration with other agencies, i.e., Emergency Management, Public Health, etc. and includes stops in about 16 Illinois cities.

Third, Illinois Department of Agriculture initiated plans for an emergency animal disease program in 1995. Since that time, we have had two informational meetings and one tabletop exercise with other agencies. On Oct. 30th, the Bureau of Animal Health, in collaboration with IEMA, county sheriff personnel, other state agencies and USDA, will stage a simulated field FMD exercise. This will involve setting up a field command post and a coordinating central emergency command office. We are pretty excited to see how this goes.

Lastly, just this fall, our bureau received an APHIS Emergency Program grant of \$50,000 to develop a multistate program to identify ways states can better communicate and respond to a FAD occurrence. This will involve the states neighboring Illinois' borders.

AAQ: Is the U.S. prepared for a bioterrorism attack targeting our food animal population?

HULL: I feel our country is as prepared as can be expected considering we have never operated in this type of environment and considering that lawmakers have had other funding priorities up until now at both state and federal levels. Additional funding will be imperative in the future to adequately safeguard our nation's food supply.

AAQ: What other organisms might bioterrorists use to threaten the U.S. food supply through our food animal population? Should we be more or less concerned about any/all of those as compared to anthrax?

HULL: There are those that would be far worse animal pathogen threats than anthrax, such as classical swine fever, FMD, and brucellosis. To me, this bioterrorist threat has an interesting twist. A couple of months ago our industry really was not concerned with this list of exotic diseases, but in the last

6 weeks they have gained enormous importance. It has forced our profession to dig out the old books and revisit these diseases. Our labs are now 'reinventing the wheel' and finding the diagnostic aids needed to detect the neopathogens.

AAQ: Have the previous threats of BSE and FMD earlier this year helped state and federal animal health officials to be more prepared for a bioterrorist

attack? Please elaborate.

HULL: Yes. They forced our country to increase the national focus on biosecurity. If we had not put an emphasis on this issue, the nation would be far more vulnerable than it is today. The emergency preparedness that states and APHIS have done for these two diseases in the past has been an excellent prelude for the bioterrorism defense.

For more information about anthrax, log on to www.animalagriculture.org.



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NIAA establishes youth program

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has announced the formation of a youth programs committee. Dr. Jeff Goodwin, an extension youth specialist with the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service, was appointed chairman of the committee by NIAA Chairman of the Board Richard D. Hull. Committee members are currently being selected and national 4-H and FFA program officials have been asked to serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

The cornerstone of the NIAA's youth program will be a simple message targeting youth, **Just Do The Right Thing!**sm, which had been developed by a subsidiary of NIAA's predecessor, Livestock Conservation Institute. The subsidiary, the National Livestock Ethics Council, was formed in 1997 to address isolated incidences of unethical and sometimes illegal activity associated with the exhibition of livestock. The initial NIAA Board of Directors dissolved

NLEC in April 2000 with plans to establish a youth program area within NIAA.



Just Do The Right Thing!sm

carries three basic themes:

- **Avoid wrong-doing** when competing in livestock exhibitions.
- **Don't be pressured** into participating in unethical practices.
- **Never compromise** your principles, the welfare of the animal or the safety of the food supply.

An addition to NIAA's Internet site is being developed for youth-oriented information and resources for agricultural educators, extension educators and 4-H and FFA adult leaders. Limited information is now available at www.animalagriculture.org/youth.

June Reed awarded NIAA Continuing Education Scholarship

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has awarded a continuing education scholarship to June Reed of Landisburg, Penn. Reed, a member of NIAA and vice chair of the Animal Health Emergency Management Committee, has been an active member of the National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering Committee. The owner of a sheep flock, she has been active in animal health policy at both the state and national levels.

The scholarship is equivalent to one-half the tuition fee for the Science, Politics and Animal Health Policy Executive Fellowship Program, a program designed to mold mid-career professionals into the animal health leaders of the 21st Century by building their critical knowledge and skills.

The executive fellowship program is administered by the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University and the University of Minnesota, as well as the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The first of three modules was scheduled to take place this

fall, however it has been postponed until Fall 2002.

"June is a worthy recipient of the NIAA Continuing Education Scholarship," said NIAA Chairman of the Board Richard D. Hull. "We are pleased to assist her in this endeavor and applaud her participation in the executive fellowship program."

In exchange for tuition assistance, Reed will be assigned a project dealing with a contemporary issue affecting animal agriculture. The project will be mutually agreeable between NIAA and the scholarship recipient, who will perform approximately 50-75 hours of service for NIAA in completing the assignment.

Additional information on the Science, Politics and Animal Health Policy Executive Fellowship Program may be obtained on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org in the Continuing Education Opportunities section.

Dr. Cris Young, a veterinarian with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, was last year's recipient.

NIAA to host 2002 annual meeting in Chicago

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture has announced that the 2002 NIAA Annual Meeting will take place in downtown Chicago, March 25-28, at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel.

The Palmer House, known all over the world for its ornate charm and opulence, has been a part of the Chicago landscape since 1871. This magnificent landmark was pur-

chased by Conrad Hilton in 1945 and maintains the longest period of continuous operation of any hotel in North America.

Individuals interested in additional information about the meeting should monitor the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org for periodic updates. Registration and preliminary program information will be made available in December.

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Animal disease surveillance increased

USDA has increased foreign animal disease (FAD) surveillance nationwide in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. "No potential FAD cases should be disregarded. Potential hoaxes should be treated as real incursions of FADs until proven otherwise," USDA said in a memo. "Specific attention should be directed at livestock and poultry concentration points."

Investigators and laboratory personnel were told to implement an appropriate level of personal protection when examining animals, carcasses and submitted samples until potentially zoonotic diseases can be ruled out. "Early detection remains the key to minimizing the impact of such a disease introduction," USDA said.

FSIS establishes Biosecurity Action Team

FSIS has established a new Food Biosecurity Action Team (F-BAT) in an effort to improve security measures to protect the U.S. food supply. Potential security improvements include upgrading internal surveillance and response capabilities, and strengthening scientific support for activities related to biological threats. Dr. Karen Henderson, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Office of Field Operations, FSIS, has been selected to facilitate F-BAT activities for FSIS as the Special Assistant to the Administrator.

Animal Health Protection Act introduced in U.S. Senate

U.S. Sens. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) have introduced a

bill designed to modernize and streamline the ability of the U.S. government to respond to an animal health emergency.

The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) would consolidate and modernize existing laws, clarify areas of uncertainty, and enhance USDA's authority and ability to protect against the threat of a serious foreign animal disease outbreak.

The AHPA has also been introduced in the House. Reps. Richard Pombo (R-CA) and Collin Peterson (D-MN) are the prime sponsors of the legislation.

\$45 million requested for USDA to strengthen biosecurity measures

The Bush Administration has proposed the allocation of \$45.2 million to USDA as part of a \$20 billion submission to Congress for emergency funding to strengthen essential programs and services related to biosecurity issues. The funding would support:

- Enhanced security for USDA facilities (\$17.2 million);
- Design and construction of a satellite facility at the USDA laboratory in Ames, Iowa for research activities (\$14.1 million);
- Technical assistance to state, local, federal and private sector entities to improve biosecurity (\$5.0 million); and
- Education and training to strengthen response mechanisms to potential food supply threats, improve data collection and dissemination, and other biosecurity activities (\$8.9 million).

"The President's proposed emergency funding for USDA will help advance the next phase of our emergency preparedness activities and will help meet our critical infrastructure needs," said

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

Sen. Roberts to introduce anti-terrorism farm legislation

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) has announced that he will introduce legislation providing for a far-reaching response to threats of terrorism against U.S. agriculture.

"Our nation's crops and livestock are now at very high risk," Senator Roberts told a meeting of farm groups. "We must move quickly to prevent attacks on grain and livestock production and we must begin a massive research effort to develop vaccines and antidotes to halt diseases that could damage our food supply in the future."

The legislation will call for spending of about \$1.1 billion next year and about \$271 million in each of the next 10 years to:

- Update and modernize USDA facilities at the Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory in New York, the National Animal Disease Center in Iowa, the Southwest Poultry Research Laboratory in Georgia, and the Animal Disease Research Laboratory in Wyoming.
- Implement stiff security procedures at those USDA research facilities as well as the Foreign Disease Laboratory located at Ft. Detrick, Md.
- Fund training and implement a rapid response strategy through a consortium of top universities, the USDA and agriculture industry groups.
- Fund grants to top agriculture universities and researchers across the nation to develop vaccines, antidotes and plant varieties that can resist such diseases as foot-and-mouth disease, Karnal bunt or avian flu, as well as other diseases that have been

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cultivated for use in bio-warfare.

"Frankly, I am very worried," said Roberts, a member of Senate committees on agriculture, intelligence and armed services. "The loss of markets resulting from the introduction of these pathogens would be devastating to our nation's economy. Markets would collapse. Our ability to deliver the nation's food supplies would be at grave risk.

"I am suggesting that we make an investment in the future of American agriculture that may well prevent this nightmare scenario."

Congress seeks stricter fines for smuggling livestock and meat

Agriculture committee leaders in both the House and the Senate have introduced legislation to increase penalties for smuggling meat or livestock into the U.S. Prompted by concerns of "mad cow" and foot-and-mouth diseases, the bills would raise the maximum fines for meat smuggling from \$1,000 to \$50,000 for an individual and to \$250,000 for a business. For first time offenders, the maximum fine would still be \$1,000 so long as the product was for personal use.

Smuggled meat was blamed for this year's devastating outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain.

Russia briefly bans Florida meat, livestock

The Russian Veterinary Service issued a ban on meat, poultry and livestock from Florida after reports surfaced about anthrax virus spores mailed to a Florida-based media organization.

The ban, which lasted about one week, was lifted after the U.S. Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Alfonso Torres, sent Russian veterinary officials a let-

ter explaining that there had been no cases of anthrax in livestock in Florida. Torres' letter also pointed out that the ban "exceeds the Office International des Epizooties' (OIE) standards of dealing with anthrax." OIE is the international standard setting body for animal health as recognized by the World Trade Organization.

The ban was especially significant because it included ports, as well. USDA operates a major import/export quarantine facility in Miami, in which U.S. poultry and poultry products from across the southeast are assembled before going to Russia. The temporary ban is reported to have had only minimal economic impact on the U.S. poultry industry.

Veneman announces livestock disease grants

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman has announced the distribution of nearly \$2 million in grants in thirty-two states to bolster emergency animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery systems.

"These grants will be used to help various states better prepare and coordinate emergency preparedness activities and coordination related to animal disease protection," said Veneman. "Funding will be used for training, equipment purchases, and to conduct emergency preparedness exercises to help strengthen these important programs."

USDA prohibits Japanese meat imports following first case of BSE

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is prohibiting imports of beef and other ruminants meats as well as all rumi-

nant byproducts from Japan. This action was taken in response to Japanese health authorities' discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a five-year old dairy cow. No case of BSE has ever been diagnosed in the United States.

Japan reportedly will test up to 1 million cattle nationwide for signs of the brain-deteriorating disease on some 140,000 farms. The country's beef export market crumbled in the wake of the BSE diagnosis. China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines have joined the list of countries banning Japanese beef.

This is the first case of BSE reported on the Asian continent. USDA has restricted the importation of live ruminants and ruminant products from Japan since March of 2000 due to foot-and-mouth disease.

Japan considers mixing meat, bone meal in cement

In response to a Japanese health ministry ban on the use of meat and bone meal for animal feed, officials of the Environment Ministry reportedly are exploring the possibility of using the powdery substance in producing cement.

The ban resulted from the diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow. The ministry had instructed renderers to burn any meat or bone meal product, but many municipalities say they don't have enough incinerators. An earlier dioxin scare closed a number of facilities.

Officials are considering that the meal be mixed in with ash, scrap rubber from tires and vegetable waste from food manufacturers in the production of cement from recycled products.

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2001 NIAA

NIAA held its 2001 Leaders Forum in Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 26-28. Members of the NIAA Board of Directors and NIAA's committee leaders received briefings from some of the nation's top animal health officials and industry leaders on a number of key issues affecting animal agriculture.

Animal health and U.S. preparedness to respond a foreign animal disease outbreak – deliberate or otherwise – dominated this year's discussions. In attendance were producers, scientists, veterinarians, animal health officials and business executives.

The NIAA Board of Directors conducted its annual mid-year meeting during Leaders Forum.

Action taken by the board included:

- postponement of the NIAA International Study Tour to France in December to no earlier than May in 2002;
- the emerging crisis concerning carcass disposal will be a major focus during the 2002 Annual Meeting; and
- formation of a Membership Task Force to work with the Director of Member Relations.

The board was also informed that plans are underway for a joint national food animal ID/equine ID symposium (previous action by the board) to be held in late July, most likely at a venue near Chicago O'Hare Airport.



An update on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) was given by Dr. Kathleen Akin of USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services.



Mr. James Leafstedt, National Pork Board, provides a report of the NIAA Pseudorabies Eradication Task Force.



Glenn Slack of NIAA, Dr. Richard Hull of Illinois Department of Agriculture, Dr. William Shulaw of The Ohio State University, Dr. Lenn Harrison of University of Kentucky, Jim Fraley of Illinois Farm Bureau, Scott Stuart of National Livestock Producers Association and Dr. Cindy Wolf of University of Minnesota take advantage of the great networking opportunity of the Leaders Forum.



Dr. Ty Vannieuwenhoven, Sr. Staff Veterinarian, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, Emergency Programs provided a Foreign Animal Disease Update.

LEADERS FORUM



Dr. Richard D. Hull, of Illinois Department of Agriculture, Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, of California Department of Agriculture and Glenn Slack of NIAA listen intently.



Peggy Logsdon, NIAA, enjoys a conversation with Jon Caspers of Iowa Pork Producers Association and Dr. Lenn Harrison of University of Kentucky.



Kevin Maher of GlobalVetLink and Dr. Thomas J. McGinn, III, of North Carolina Department of Agriculture are deep in discussion.



Dr. Janice Swanson, associate professor at Kansas State University, provided a briefing entitled "Fast Food, Freedom and Farm Audits – An Update on Chain Restaurant Activity".



Dr. Don Otto, a Veterinary Medical Officer with USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services in Iowa, briefed NIAA leaders on his recent 30-day detail to the United Kingdom to combat foot-and-mouth disease.



Dr. Alfonso Torres, Chief Veterinary Officer for the U.S., presented a snapshot on domestic and global animal health and a briefing on international animal health standard setting activities.

News Briefs • News Briefs • News Briefs*(continued from page 5)***BSE 'Understanding' Plan unveiled**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson has announced a department-wide plan outlining new steps to improve scientific understanding of BSE and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). The plan incorporates an approach to further strengthen surveillance, increase research resources, and expand existing inspection efforts to prevent BSE and TSEs from entering or taking hold in the United States.

Thompson's plan involves four areas of responsibility: surveillance (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), protection (Food and Drug Administration), research (National Institutes of Health) and oversight within HHS. This effort will be coordinated with other government agencies, the private sector and the international community to contain the epidemic and assist those affected by it.

New scrapie eradication rules go into effect Nov. 19

A plan to eradicate the fatal disease scrapie from the nation's sheep flocks and goat herds, announced in August by the US Department of Agriculture, will require dedication and commitment of producers and other stakeholders, say industry leaders.

"To be successful, the scrapie eradication program will require the cooperation of every segment of the industry, from producer to meat packer, including local veterinarians and state animal health officials," says Glenn Slack, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA).

NIAA has launched the National Scrapie Education Initiative to educate producers about new identification rules and movement restrictions, which will take effect Nov. 19. More information is available on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie.

USDA implements chronic wasting disease program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the authorization of \$2.6 million from Commodity Credit Corporation funds to implement a chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance and indemnity program in the United States. While considered rare, CWD is endemic to free-ranging deer and elk in a limited area of southeastern Wyoming, northeastern Colorado, and southwestern Nebraska. CWD has also been found in captive elk herds in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. All positive herds are under state quarantines.

The transfer of emergency funds will be used to reduce the spread of CWD in captive elk herds. The program will involve the purchasing of positive and exposed elk from CWD-infected herds, enhanced surveillance and diagnostic testing for CWD and increased training for producers and veterinarians. There is currently no evidence that CWD is linked to disease in humans, or in domestic animals other than deer and elk. CWD is part of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, a group that includes scrapie and bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Currently, there is no live animal test or vaccine for CWD.

Dr. Elsa Murano confirmed as Under Secretary for Food Safety

On Sept. 26, the Senate Agriculture Committee confirmed the nomination of Dr. Elsa Murano as the Under Secretary for Food Safety. In remarks before the Committee, Dr. Murano emphasized the importance of science-based decisions, consumer education, the inclusion of all stakeholders in addressing food safety issues, and the need for a proactive approach to food safety crises.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Dr. Murano earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Florida International University, an M.S. degree in Anaerobic Microbiology, and later a Ph.D. in Food Science from Virginia Tech. Dr. Murano served as both a researcher and teacher in food safety at Iowa State and Texas A&M Universities. Since 1997, Dr. Murano served as the director of the Center for Food Safety within the Institute of Food Science and Engineering at Texas A&M.

Sec. Veneman announces new appointments for Billy and Glavin

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman has announced the appointment of Thomas J. Billy as the Special Advisor for Codex and International Food Safety Issues. Billy has served as the Administrator for FSIS since 1996 and led the development and implementation of HACCP in meat and poultry plants. He will now focus on his role as the elected chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as well as providing advice and counsel to the Secretary on issues involving interna-

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tional public health and food safety.

The Secretary also announced that Margaret Glavin will serve as Acting Administrator of FSIS. Glavin has served as Associate Administrator for FSIS since 1999 and in various capacities with the Agency since 1983. Both appointments were effective Oct. 22.

GAO supports creation of single food safety agency

The General Accounting Office (GAO) told a Senate subcommittee recently that the current federal food safety system is "a patchwork structure that hampers efforts to adequately address existing and emerging food safety risks."

The GAO highlighted a number of inconsistencies, such as the fact that FSIS spent \$712 million in 1999 to inspect 6,000 meat, poultry and egg establishments, while FDA spent \$283 million the same year to oversee 57,000 food establishments. The area FSIS oversees, says GAO, accounts for 20 percent of federally regulated foods and 15 percent of foodborne illness. In contrast, the area that FDA oversees accounts for 80 percent of the food supply and 85 percent of foodborne illnesses.

In making their conclusions, GAO says that creating a single food safety agency would be the most effective solution to deal with existing and emerging threats, including deliberate contamination of foods with biological agents.

To view GAO's report, log on to www.gao.gov.

Lester Crawford may head FDA

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson has urged

the White House to nominate veterinarian and food policy expert Lester Crawford to head the Food and Drug Administration, reports REUTERS. The news agency reported that Crawford is undergoing a review by the White House.

Since 1997, Dr. Crawford has served as director of the Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, a Washington DC-based educational and research center associated with Georgetown University. He is a former administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service and has served as executive director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. Dr. Crawford has also served as director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Al Tank departs NPPC

Al Tank has tendered his resignation as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), effective Oct. 15. Tank's resignation brings to conclusion a decade of work with NPPC, including the last 4 1/2 years as CEO.

"We want it clearly understood that the decision to leave at this time is Al's decision – and his decision alone – which was reluctantly accepted by the Board of Directors," said NPPC President Barb Determan. "He strongly believes this decision is in the best interest of pork producers, the pork industry and NPPC. We wish Al the best in his new endeavors and thank him for his leadership, hard work and dedication on behalf of the nation's pork producers."

"Now is the right time to depart and create opportunity for new leadership," Tank stated. "The checkoff has been protected and the National Pork Board

has a new CEO in place. Now, NPPC with the active involvement of producer and industry leaders must develop and implement the organizational blueprint to serve the pork industry."

Determan said NPPC would act to fill the CEO position soon. Tank has not announced his future plans.

In related news, Steven D. Murphy has been hired as the new chief executive officer of the National Pork Board. Most recently, Murphy served as President/COO of AgWeb.com, Inc.

Craig Reed leaves APHIS administrator role

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Administrator Craig Reed announced his departure from the agency and federal service effective Sept. 1. In the unexpected announcement, Reed said that he will become a visiting professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

In a letter to APHIS employees, Reed said, "My new position gives me an extraordinary opportunity to work on the development of a Joint Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health that integrates teaching, research and extension programs..." Reed said the program will tie together Virginia Tech's Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Natural Resources and Human Resources and Education. "I will also be teaching at their veterinary school and advising graduate students who are interested in pursuing careers in food safety and agricultural policy."

Reed's Associate Administrator, Bobby Accord, has been named Acting Administrator until a permanent Administrator is named.

NIAA welcomes the following as new members!!

National Association and Commercial Organizations:

GlobalVetLink, L.C.

Contact:

Mr. Kevin Maher
Iowa State University Research Park
2501 N. Loop Drive
Ames, IA 50010
(515) 296-0798

State-level Associations and Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services

Contact:

Dr. John I. Enck, Jr.
2301 N. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 772-2852

University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844

Contact:

Dr. Jeff Goodwin
State 4-H Office
P.O. Box 43015
(208) 885-6965

Dr. Dick Battaglia
Department of Animal and Veterinary Science
Ag Science Building, Room 213
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Individuals (Self-employed):

Contact:

KEO Consulting
Dr. Ken Olson
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Schaumburg, IL 60193
(630) 529-2874

Affiliate Membership (non-voting):

Dr. Neal Westgerdes
Parodocs Farm
P.O. Box 461
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(765) 566-3034

Dr. John R. Boyce
National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
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Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 224-0332

Dr. Helen Noble
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(978) 356-1119

Dr. Jeff Melander
ITC Veterinary Corps, US Army
72 Georgia Way
Cameron, NC 28326
(910) 396-3103

Florida Cattlemen's Association
Contact:

Mr. Jim Handley
P.O. Box 421929
Kissimmee, FL 34742-1929
(407) 846-6221

Dr. Bill Hooton
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Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 527-0469

For information about membership in NIAA,
contact Michelle Thomas,
Director of Member Relations
Phone (270) 782-9798, Ext. 105
Email mthomas@animalagriculture.org

Renewing Members!

National Association and Commercial Organizations:

- ALLFLEX, USA
- Cargill Pork
- Centers for Epidemiology & Animal Health
- Ketchum Manufacturing, Inc.
- Wiechman Pig Company, Inc.

State-level Associations and Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies:

- Alabama Farmers Federation
- California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System
- Illinois Milk Producers Association
- University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan State University Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory
- Minnesota Board of Animal Health
- Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
- Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Mississippi Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Missouri Department of Agriculture, Animal Health

- Nebraska Pork Producers Association
- North Carolina State University
- North Dakota State Board of Animal Health
- Purdue University Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
- Purdue University Department of Animal Science
- South Dakota Animal Industry Board
- South Dakota State University
- University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- University of Kentucky
- University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- University of Missouri Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
- Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Individuals (Self-employed):

- Mr. Jeff Galle
- Dr. Temple Grandin
- Mr. Richard Brauer
- Mr. Robert Jameson
- Mr. Max Waldo

Affiliate Membership (non-voting):

- Dr. Maurice Shelton
- Louisiana State University

NIAA Membership Application

Membership Categories and Dues Levels

Please check one:

\$1,000 National Associations and Commercial Organizations \$250 Individuals (self-employed)
\$500 State-Level Associations and Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies \$100 Affiliate Membership (non-voting)

Company/Organization: _____ Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Card#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Simply send your payment or credit card information and mail this application to the address provided. Or you may fax your request to (270) 782-0188. We will gladly process your application.

NIAA to provide administrative services for AASRP



The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) has announced that it has contracted with the National Institute for

Animal Agriculture (NIAA) to provide AASRP with management and administrative services. AASRP President Richard Stobaeus, Jr., DVM, of Brunswick, Ga., made the announcement following the association's annual meeting held in Boston in July.

The transition to NIAA from Nashville, Tenn.-based Walker Management Group, an association management firm that provided administrative services to AASRP since 1997, was completed in August.

"NIAA deals with a number of animal health and veterinary-related issues and will be very sensitive to the needs of AASRP and our members," said Stobaeus. "I, along with the other

officers and members of the board who were involved with NIAA's selection, feel that this new relationship established between AASRP and NIAA will be very positive for our organization."

Formerly known as the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI), NIAA works closely with the veterinary profession in addressing animal health, well-being and food safety issues. Its membership roster includes the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Association of Swine Veterinarians and American Association of Avian Pathologists.

"Disease prevention, control and eradication, and animal health issues in general, are a cornerstone of our organization," said NIAA Chief Executive Officer Glenn Slack. "Our staff is accustomed to serving the needs of the veterinary medical community, and we take pride in providing professional courtesy and service to private practitioners, as

well as corporate, research, extension and government veterinarians."

Slack's principal assistant, Peggy Logsdon, has been assigned responsibilities of serving the AASRP membership and seeing to it that the day-to-day fulfillment of AASRP's needs are met. Other specialized staff at NIAA will lend support in areas such as book-keeping services and website maintenance.

AASRP Executive Director David McCrystle, DVM, of Healdsburg, Calif., said a Management Services Agreement was prepared and signed for an initial term of one year. He said NIAA will provide membership support, financial management, and general management services.

McCrystle said that the AASRP Board of Directors considered a number of options and proposals, and subsequently accepted NIAA's proposal. "I am familiar with NIAA and their work, and believe that this will be a positive relationship for both organizations," said McCrystle. "It's a good fit."

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