animal agriculture

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

# Task force presents preliminary report outlining national plan for animal ID

Participants attending the National Food Animal Identification Symposium in Chicago this summer were the first to learn what members of a national task force are thinking in terms of identification and traceability of U.S. livestock.

The symposium was one several events held during ID/INFO EXPO 2002, a conference and trade show devoted to the issue of animal identification and information systems. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) hosted the event.

The National Food Animal Identification Task Force, a united effort combining industry and government, was formed in April to "ensure the United States has an adequate animal identification system that supports the financial viability of animal agriculture," according to Neil Hammerschmidt, task force chairman.

He said the multi-species task force has representation from the entire production chain. Thirty organizations serving various segments of animal agriculture and a few government agencies have placed over 100 representatives on the task force and are serving among five working groups: animal disease management, marketability, standards, producer concerns and funding, authority and oversight.

Hammerschmidt, COO of the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, said the task force met on a couple of occasions prior to ID/INFO EXPO 2002, and has met since to consider the feedback resulting from the symposium.

He said a final draft of the work plan would be presented to the United States Animal Health Association Committee on Livestock Identification

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at the association's annual meeting in St. Louis in October.

"An animal identification crisis looms, ironically resulting from recent success in animal disease eradication programs," said Hammerschmidt. "Maintaining the health of the U.S. herd is the urgent issue, therefore, it is the most significant focus of the national identification plan."

He said the task force has determined that a 48-hour traceback capability is the ultimate goal of a national ID system. "This determination provides tremendous direction in how the system is set up."

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## President's Department of Homeland Security would include transfer of APHIS, Plum Island

In an address to the nation on June 6, President Bush outlined a proposal to create a Department of Homeland Security, saying "Our nation faces a new and changing threat unlike any we have faced before -- the global threat of terrorism." While telling the American people, "What I am proposing tonight is the most extensive reorganization of the federal government since the 1940s," he called on Congress to take swift action.

The President said that as many as 100 different government agencies have some responsibilities for homeland security. He said that his proposed legislation would create "a single, permanent department with an overriding and urgent mission: securing the homeland of America, and protecting the American people.

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## USDA releases $43.5 million to states for strengthening agriculture homeland security protections

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced that USDA is releasing more than $43 million in state grants and cooperative agreements to bolster food and agricultural homeland security protections. The resources are part of $328 million approved by President Bush and the Congress earlier this year to strengthen USDA's homeland security preparedness.

"These grants are an important component of the Administration's continued efforts to strengthen homeland security protections as it relates to food and agriculture," said Veneman. "States and local communities, along with academia and the private sector, are critical partners in making sure we are prepared in the event of an emergency."

The $43 million will provide funding to support critical efforts to strengthen the food supply infrastructure. Of that, $20.6 million will be provided to our state and university cooperators to be used to establish a network of diagnostic laboratories disbursed strategically throughout the national to permit rapid and accurate diagnosis of animal disease threats; $14 million will be used to strengthen state capabilities to respond to animal disease emergencies, primarily by helping every state to meet the national standards of emergency preparedness established by the National Animal Health Emergency Management System; $4.5 million will be used to strengthen state-level surveillance for animal disease; and $4.3 million will be used to assist states to improve their capability to detect plant pests and diseases.

Earlier this year, USDA also announced additional homeland security allocations, which will include:

- $177 million to make physical and operational security improvements at key USDA locations. This provides $64 million at the animal disease center in Ames, Iowa to relocate labs from leased space into the main Ames campus and includes funds for a new facility for sensitive diagnostic work, which will be completed in 18 months.
- $23 million for USDA's Plum Island laboratory, pending an independent review of the critical needs and options for the facility.
- $35 million to strengthen the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection program to exclude agricultural pests and diseases at the borders. These funds are being used to expedite development of an automated system of inspections in coordination with the U.S. Customs Service. In addition, USDA is purchasing 100 rapid pathogen identification devices and hiring additional inspection personnel.
- $16.5 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to increase monitoring, provide training to inspectors and expand technical capabilities. $1.5 million of these funds are being used to hire additional inspectors for meat and poultry.
- $15.3 million for the Agricultural Research Service to improve rapid detection technologies for foot and mouth diseases as well as other animal diseases.

In USDA's FY 2003 budget request, more than $150 million is being requested for additional homeland security protections. As well, if the budget is approved by Congress, it would bring food safety and pest and disease protection spending to the highest levels ever at USDA.

## USDA creates new biotechnology unit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has created a new unit within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service called Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS).

The new program will focus on regulation of biotechnology, risk assessments, and permitting. BRS will also work with foreign governments to help create compatible biotechnology standards and will follow industrial trends and forecast scientific advancement to better regulate the biotechnology industry.

APHIS will be reassigning 25 staff members to this new unit and focusing approximately $4 million on the effort. Previously, APHIS' biotechnology programs were divided between APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine and Veterinary Services programs.

## Equine industry hit hard by West Nile virus

Horse owners and veterinarians are on alert as West Nile virus (WNV) has grown to epidemic proportions. By summer's end, 6,223 cases in 34 states were confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

Fatalities have yet to be estimated. In 2001, 416 horses from 19 states were diagnosed with the disease, and 24% of those died or were euthanized, according to the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

"As this disease makes its way

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across the continental U.S., we're seeing an increasing number of WNV cases in horses," said Bobby Acord, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administrator. "Our best estimates are that one in three WNV-affected horses will die. We're urging horse owners to take all available precautions against this disease."

The epidemic has stretched APHIS Veterinary Services scientists, laboratories and resources to the limit. "It's been a real challenge for APHIS-VS to acquire enough assistance, both in laboratories and field personnel, to investigate and diagnose a disease outbreak of this size," said Dr. Randall Crom, APHIS senior staff veterinarian for emergency programs. "This is an epidemic…."

Many horse owners in the central and western regions of the country were caught unprepared for WNV's rapid spread. "Hose owners should be proactive in talking to their veterinarian about the possibility of vaccinating their horses," Dr. Crom said.

## USDA, Interior deliver chronic wasting disease management plan to Congress

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Interior recently delivered to Congress a national plan for assisting states, federal agencies and tribes in controlling the growing threat to elk and deer from chronic wasting disease.

The plan details how federal agencies can assist states and help develop consensus-based approaches that states and industry may adopt to manage the disease. The plan was developed by a joint working group co-chaired by USDA and DOI.

Several states have established chronic wasting disease programs. However, lack of resources in some states and lack of uniform standards have prevented establishment of minimum criteria for an effective nationwide program.

The plan addresses disease management, diagnostics, research, surveillance and information dissemination, and can be viewed on the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/cwd/index.html.

## DeHaven named Veterinary Services Deputy Administrator

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, has been named deputy administrator of the veterinary services program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"I am confident that Ron will continue to strengthen and invigorate the management in APHIS," said APHIS administrator Bobby R. Acord. "He brings a wealth of veterinary and regulatory experience to his new post in veterinary services."

DeHaven was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, but has also lived in California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland. He graduated from veterinary school at Purdue University in 1975, then spent 4 years in the Army Veterinary Corps at Fort Carson, Colo. In 1979, DeHaven entered reserve status with the Army and began his career with APHIS. He spent six years in Lexington, Ky., as a field veterinary medical officer and then moved to Jackson, Miss., as the assistant veterinarian in charge for the veterinary services' program.

While in Mississippi, DeHaven attended Millsaps College and obtained a Masters of Business Administration. Shortly thereafter, he moved to California and worked for seven years as the regional director for animal care in the western United States. In 1996, DeHaven was named acting deputy administrator of APHIS' animal care program and was later permanently placed in the position. Since October, 2001, DeHaven has worked as the acting associate administrator for APHIS.

DeHaven lives with his wife Nancy in Crofton, Md. They have a daughter and a son.

## USAHA, AAVLD annual meetings to take place in St. Louis

The U.S. Animal Health Association will hold their 106th annual meeting, October 17-24, 2002, at The Millenium Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians annual meeting. Program and registration information is available on the Internet at www.usaha.org.

## Seminar at cattle industry summer conference addresses issues surrounding animal disease outbreaks

More than 60 cattle producers, veterinarians, government agency representatives and staffs from state and national cattle organizations addressed the handling of possible animal disease outbreaks during a special session at the 2002 Cattle Industry Summer Conference, held in Reno, Nev.

A key theme was that government agencies are understaffed and under funded and it is important for the industry and producers to get involved and take the lead.

Dee Ellis, a veterinarian with the Texas Animal Health Commission, noted that it is important for the industry to drive management plans to the producer level, saying this is done by holding planning meetings, conducting test exercises and playing a role in policy development. Ellis chairs the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Animal Health Emergency Management Committee

Speakers at the meeting agreed that to protect animals and the industry there must be an integrated management approach involving federal, state and local agencies, industry organizations and producers.

The July 16 meeting was coordinat-

ed by National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

## Livestock producer testifies on proposed homeland security department

Ohio cow/calf producer Gary Wilson told the House Committee on Agriculture that while livestock producers support the president's proposed Department of Homeland Security, they had questions about how a transfer of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to that department would be accomplished.

The chairman of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Health and Well-being Committee, Wilson was testifying on behalf of the NCBA, National Pork Producers Council and the American Sheep Industry Association. His testimony did not attempt to reject or entirely approve the proposed changes, but said the intent of the president is commendable.

"We support efforts to better streamline work currently being conducted by various agencies in order to protect America from those who wish to cause intentional harm," Wilson said. "We are pleased with the fact that the threats to the agricultural sector are included in this proposal.

"Our vision of the Department of Homeland Security's role is to ensure that potentially dangerous people, products, articles, animals, etc. do not enter the United States. Quite simply, if they can't get in, they can't do harm," he said. "In this regard, we can see the important of a single agency or department held responsible for keeping our borders safe and impenetrable."

But while there is merit to consolidation into one agency, the current proposal to incorporate all Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) functions into the Department of Homeland Security raises many questions and concerns, Wilson said.

"There are several components in a consolidation effort that concern us," said Wilson, who raises cattle near New Concord, Ohio. "They included the development of diagnostic tools for monitoring, surveillance, control and eradication of domestic diseases in the United States, the detection of exotic or emerging or new diseases, the certification of exports, descriptive studies of current animal production practices, sanitary/phytosanitary standards and associated international trade efforts and negotiations."

Producers are concerned that moving all components of APHIS to the Department of Homeland Security could possibly disrupt critical agricultural components, Wilson said.

"Many functions of APHIS are critical to the future competitiveness of agriculture in the United States. These must not be overlooked as discussions continue on the architecture of the Department of Homeland Security."

## Veterinarians support "agreements" between new Department of Homeland Security and USDA

The Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) voted to support the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security, but without transferring the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to the new department. Instead the AVMA recommends that an agreement be established between the Departments to accomplish the homeland security tasks pertaining to agriculture.

Meeting at the Association's 139th Convention in Nashville, Tenn. in July, the Executive Board acted on a recommendation from the Association's Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine to support the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, but oppose transfer of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Several Bills in Congress propose establishing a new Department of Homeland Security. House of Representatives Bill (HR 5005) introduced by Rep. Richard K. Armey of Texas proposes that all of APHIS be transferred to the new department. This bill is President Bush's proposal. A Senate Bill (S 2452) introduced by Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, proposes that only that portion of APHIS "which administers laws relating to agricultural quarantine inspection at points of entry," be transferred to the new department.

## APHIS provides indemnity for Virginia poultry producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will provide $69.2 million to Virginia contract growers and owners for poultry destroyed because of low pathogenic avian influenza.

USDA will pay all eligible losses of contract growers and up to 50 percent of eligible losses of owners, minus any amount paid to the contract grower of a flock.

Additionally, USDA is providing that the value of poultry destroyed due to low pathogenic avian influenza may be determined after destruction and disposal of the poultry, and, except in limited situations, is requiring a waiting period of seven days following cleaning and disinfection before premises that contained poultry affected by the disease may be restocked.

## Food industry groups release animal welfare report

The Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR) has released a report outlining animal welfare guidelines that have been endorsed by a

joint expert advisory council providing counsel to the two food industry groups.

A joint statement released by FMI and NCCR said the report "provides an overview of the results of nearly two years of efforts by the retail community, working with their suppliers to further develop and support programs that strengthen animal welfare. The report is designed for use in conjunction with the animal welfare guidelines of the individual producer and processor organizations designated in the report."

The report provides an overview of the FMI-NCCR overall policy and program goals, the program development process, recommendations of the FMI-NCCR Animal Welfare Expert Advisory Council, and an outline of designated next steps.

The report can be viewed on the Internet at either association's website: www.fmi.org or www.nccr.net. Another progress report is expected to be out in October of this year.

## ConAgra issues second largest recall of ground beef in history

ConAgra Beef Company, Greeley, Colo., has voluntarily recalled approximately 19 million pounds of beef trim and fresh and frozen ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli 0157:H7.

The action was taken following a scientific and technical review of plant practices and company records by FSIS. The investigation indicated that product destined to become ground beef that was produced at the Greeley plant had a heightened possibility of containing E. coli 0157:H7.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has documented multiple cases of illness connected to ConAgra beef that was the subject of the June 30 recall.

The recall began with a USDA third-party test at an outside processor. The ground beef production date was May 31, 2002. The USDA sample was taken on June 24. ConAgra Beef was notified of the test results on June 29 and initiated a voluntary recall within one day of receiving notice from USDA that the product had tested positive for E. coli 0157:H7. The recall of approximately 350,000 pounds of product was issued before any illnesses had been reported.

ConAgra expanded the original recall on July 19 to encompass the approximately 19 million pounds of product after discussions with USDA. "The expansion was out of an abundance of caution even though there were no conclusive signs that the additional product being recalled was anything less than safe and wholesome," said a statement released by ConAgra.

While encouraging consumers to return suspect product, Acting Food Safety and Inspection Service Administrator William Hudnall emphasized that consumers can be confident that proper cooking to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F. kills harmful bacteria.

ConAgra has initiated a number of steps to minimize future risk of contamination at the Greeley plant. Those improvements can be viewed on the Internet at www.latestupdate.com.

## USDA to purchase El Paso dairies to safeguard against bovine tuberculosis

In order to create a buffer zone to prevent the introduction of bovine tuberculosis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorizing the purchase of dairy cattle operations and a processing plant in the El Paso, Texas, area.

An interim rule, published in the July 26 Federal Register, allows USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in cooperation with the state of Texas, to purchase the El Paso area dairy operations over the next 2 years. All owners must agree to dispose of their herds, close existing dairy operations and refrain from establishing new cattle breeding operations in the area in order to qualify for the buyout. The cost will be approximately $44 million.

Despite ongoing testing of large dairy herds in the El Paso area and the removal of tuberculosis infected animals from those herds, reinfection of U.S. dairy herds continues to occur. According to USDA, the purchase will create a buffer zone between tuberculosis-infected dairy cattle in Juarez, Mexico, and U.S. dairy operations.

This action is part of the expansion of USDA's bovine tuberculosis eradication program that started in Oct. 2000 when $60 million in emergency funds was transferred to APHIS to eradicate the disease from the United States.

Those funds are being used to address tuberculosis in wildlife populations in Michigan, to eliminate infected and high-risk herds in the El Paso area, to assist Mexico with its tuberculosis eradication program and to deal with the international trade aspects of the disease.

Owners of other animals in the United States destroyed because of tuberculosis will continue to be eligible for indemnity in accordance with existing regulations. There are proposed regulations that would allow a payment of fair market value up to $3,000 per infected animal.

Texas, Michigan and California are the only remaining states with animals positive for tuberculosis.

## Administration unveils comprehensive U.S. trade proposal to expand American farmer's access to overseas markets

The Bush Administration recently announced an ambitious proposal for reforming the rules of global agricultural trade that would level the playing field for all countries by substantially reducing global trade barriers, slashing trade-distorting subsidies and elimi-

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# ID/INFO EXPO 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

## Some of the Task Force Report's Key Preliminary Conclusions:

1. In the event of a foreign animal disease (FAD) incursion to the U.S., timely traceback of animals is the key to rapid recovery.
2. The goal of the National Identification (ID) System is to have the capability to identify all premises that had direct contact with a FAD within two days (48 hours) after discovery.
3. The movement of individual animals, or "units of animals", must be recorded into a central database, or a seamlessly linked database infrastructure.
4. Premises ID is a key data element and must be standardized for all animal production operations as well as animal holding facilities, markets and processing facilities.
5. The unique Premises ID is the "key" to the database that allows authorized users to access more information, in particular the an animal health official would initiate communication with when researching an animal disease problem.
6. The establishment of a standard for an individual animal and group/lot numbering system is equally imperative.
7. Individual animal ID is needed for animal disease programs for species where animals born on the same premises are not likely to move through the production chain as one group.
8. Radio frequency identification devices used for official animal ID must be in compliance with International Standards Organization (ISO) requirements.
9. It is imperative that the final rule making the "American ID Number" an official numbering system be published as timely as possible.
10. Each species group has unique characteristics that need to be addressed specifically to advance ID.

## Task force presents preliminary report

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Approximately 275 people attended ID/INFO EXPO 2002. In addition to the food animal ID symposium, the first-ever National Equine Identification Symposium took place with 125 horse industry and state and federal government officials in attendance. A trade show, spanning both conferences, provided an opportunity to view some of the latest ID technology and to talk with manufacturers and information service providers.

Hammerschmidt said the task force is nearing completion of its original charge and the five working groups are finalizing their assigned tasks. "The task force will now work as species groups that will focus on issues specific to them to establish phase-in plans for their industry."

Industry organizations will have an opportunity to share the work plan with their memberships between during the first quarter of 2003. A final plan for animal identification in the U.S. will be unveiled at the 2003 NIAA Annual Meeting in Cincinnati in April, Hammerschmidt said.

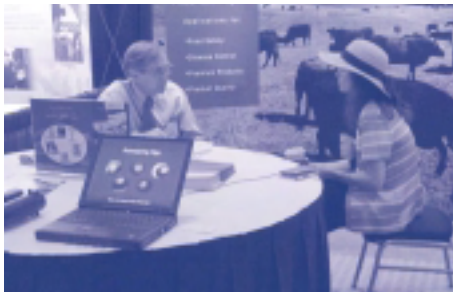
### What is "National" Animal Identification?

*...an identification system that, through established standards and defined data elements, allows for the compatibility of systems while providing the efficient availability of agreed-to information across each segment of the animal agriculture industry. The establishment of standards allows for the system to support marketing, regulatory, and health assurance functions.*

National Food Animal Identification Task Force

**The National Food Animal Identification Work Plan and a virtual proceedings of ID/INFO EXPO 2002 are available on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org/id.**

Participants in the first-ever National Equine Identification Symposium engaged in small group discussions to discuss the need for a national system and to identify key issues.



ID/INFO EXPO participants had an opportunity to visit the trade show featuring 20 identification manufacturers, suppliers and information systems providers.

Gary Wilson, an Ohio cattle producer, and a room full of other participants at the National Food Animal Identification Symposium listen to one of 65 presentations offered during ID/INFO EXPO 2002.

Scott Stuart, one of the National Food Animal Identification Task Force co-chairs, helps to facilitate a break-out discussion on producer concerns. Stuart is President and CEO of the National Livestock Producers Association.

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# Homeland Security...

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"Employees of this new agency will come to work every morning knowing their most important job is to protect their fellow citizens," Bush said.

Expanding on the department's mission, he said it would work to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recovery from attacks that may occur.

The proposed organizational structure has four main divisions: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Countermeasures; and Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection.

In the President's proposal, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service would be transferred from USDA to the Border and Transportation Security division of DHS. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman marched to the beat of the President's drum in her statement to the press.

"For agriculture in particular, the President's new approach to homeland security is important," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "USDA has a strong infrastructure in place – and an effective track record – in protecting American farms, ranches, livestock and crops from devastating diseases such as foot-and-mouth, which ravaged much of Europe last year.

"The new, coordinated border and port security plan would only strengthen those protections," she said. "At the same time, the Department of Homeland Security will provide a unified, national effort to prevent and respond to intentional acts of bioterrorism that seek to use our food supply as a weapon."

### Congress moves to keep APHIS at USDA

The House of Representatives sent H.R. 5005 to the Senate with much of APHIS remaining at USDA, while transferring only the functions for agricultural imports and entry inspections to the new department. The House also added language to the responsibilities of the new Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security to carry out the functions of agricultural inspections.

The House agreed with the President's proposal to transfer the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, but added language requiring that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Homeland Security enter into an agreement for continued access by USDA for research, diagnostics, and other activities. The Senate reportedly is looking at keeping Plum Island within USDA and add language to the bill that would give Homeland Security necessary access.

The language in the House version received the blessing of the White House. Debate on homeland security legislation continues in the Senate.

A copy of the proposed legislation and the President's message to Congress and speech to the nation are available on the internet at www.whitehouse.gov.

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nating export subsidies.

"Our proposal lays out our vision for reforming and liberalizing global trade in agricultural goods," said U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick. "Our initiative opens a world of opportunity for America's farmers. We outline practical steps for ensuring that our farmers can thrive, while opening doors for other countries to participate in the growing agricultural marketplace."

"U.S. farms and ranchers support free trade because they rely heavily on market expansion for continued growth," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "However, we need to level the playing field by reducing and eliminating the unfair trade barriers that not only hurt our farmers, but other countries around the world. The goal of the U.S. proposal is to bring more equity to the world agricultural trading system and strengthen the rules of trade."

The proposal, which has been presented to members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), outlines a strategy for reducing and eventually eliminating tariffs and other forms of trade-distorting subsidies in agriculture.

Under the U.S. market access proposal, all WTO members would reduce tariffs using a formula that would demand greater reductions of high tariffs than low tariffs, and result in no tariff over 25 percent. This would result in allowed agricultural tariffs falling from 62% to 15%. The U.S. proposal also calls for a number of specific reforms that would substantially improve market access opportunities.

The U.S. proposal on domestic support would simplify the current system: subsidies would be considered either trade distorting or non-trade distorting. Trade-distorting support would be capped at 5 percent of the value of agricultural production. This would result in a global reduction of over $100 billion of allowed trade distorting support. Non-trade distorting support would not be limited as long as certain criteria are met.

Currently, the allowable level of trade-distorting support for WTO members is disproportionate. The EU, with roughly the same value of agricultural production as the United States, can provide $60 billion in support a year, while the United States is limited to $19 billion (so called "amber box" payments). The EU can support its farmers at a rate that is approximately 25 percent of the value of its agricultural production, Japan can provide support equal to 40 percent of its value of production, but the United States is limited to less than 10 percent of the value of its production. In addition, the EU spends of $20 billion in trade distorting "blue box" programs while the U.S. spends zero.

"The U.S. package address the disparities that exist under current WTO commitments and increases the market orientation of world agricultural trade," said Zoellick. "The average U.S. agricultural tariff is 12 percent, while the average worldwide tariff is 62 percent, with many tariffs in excess of 100 percent. Our approach to reducing these tariffs goes beyond the incremental formula of the Uruguay Round and creates a more equitable result at far lower levels."

"This proposal is aggressive, visionary and assures U.S. leadership as we move forward in the WTO negotiations," said Veneman. "Under current WTO rules, the scales are unbalanced and this proposal would put U.S. farmers and ranchers on an equal footing with others around the world."

### President signs bill authorizing trade promotion authority

The legislation, crafted by Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.), provides the president with fast-track trade negotiating authority and will assist American workers, includes farmers and ranchers, whose job loss is associated with an increase in imports.

Fast-track authorization, which gives the president authority to negotiate broad new trade agreements - and have those agreements voted up or down by Congress without amendments - expired in 1994.

The new trade law also will expand Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) provisions to protect thousands of jobs potentially threatened by trade agreements. Baucus was successful in ensuring that farmers and ranchers, for the first time, will be further protected under the TAA provisions.

"Increased international trade is good for our economy. But we must make sure that we protect the jobs of Montana's and America's workers. This bill will provide assistance and consulting to family farmers and ranchers before they lose their business."

In signing the legislation, President Bush said TPA will make it "much more likely somebody is going to be able to find work, and some farmer is going to be able to sell his product, and some nation is going to be able to trade with us which will help lift them out of poverty."

"Trade promotion authority for the president is a victory for U.S. farmers and ranchers," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. "TPA sends the signal to our trading partners that the United States is ready to assume a leadership role in negotiations and has the backing of Congress to actively engage in the process. Farm Bureau applauds this legislation that restores TPA to the president."

U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick said, ".with TPA, we can get back to the crucial task at hand: expanding markets to benefit our farmers, workers, and families." He said American exports already account for about 12 million U.S. jobs. "Over the past decade, U.S. exports accounted for about a quarter of the country's growth. One in three acres of American farms are planted for sales overseas."

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## Farm Bill passes with country of origin labeling (COOL) provision

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, signed by President Bush on May 13, mandates voluntary country of origin labeling (COOL). The COOL provisions of the Farm Bill require that USDA issue the voluntary guidelines by Sept. 30, so that retailers can begin labeling beef, pork, lamb, fish, perishable agricultural commodities and peanuts as to country of origin.

R-CALF USA led the U.S. cattle industry's efforts to pass mandatory country of origin labeling. "This legislation will finally allow U.S. cattle producers to differentiate their product from their foreign competitors' product - an ingredient essential to competition," said R-CALF USA President Leo McDonnell, Jr.

Under the law, retailers may voluntarily label covered commodities for country of origin for a two-year period beginning Sept. 30. The mandatory COOL provisions then become effective Sept. 30, 2004. Program implementation is the responsibility of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The full text of the Farm Bill's COOL provisions can be found on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/COOL.

## North Carolina participates in federal bioterrorism disease disaster scenario

Agriculture Commissioner Meg Scott Phipps and four officials from the N. C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently participated in an exercise that simulated what the government's course of action would be if a bioterrorism-induced animal disease were found in the United States.

The exercise, called Crimson Sky, was attended by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, several commissioners of agriculture, and top level officials from USDA, Office of Homeland Security and other cabinet level offices.

"This exercise was by invitation only and we were invited to participate because of the preparation we have done on the state level to handle such a scenario," Phipps said. "Since this was an executive level exercise, we focused on identifying roles and responsibilities and trying to work out the flow of information between federal and state agencies and industry."

Attending from NCDA&CS was Phipps, State Veterinarian Dr. David Marshall, Assistant Commissioner Mike Blanton, Emergency Programs Director Dr. Tom McGinn and Emergency Programs Assistant Director John Hoffman.

Secretary Veneman gave credit to McGinn and Hoffman who were instrumental in forming the scenario used in the exercise. The pair gave a presentation on the disease-spread model they used and how it was adapted to support the Crimson Sky exercise. Veneman also praised Phipps and NCDA&CS for their national leadership through the Emergency Programs Division and Multi-Hazard Task Force team.

"We will continue to work on and improve our disaster response plans," Phipps said. "Each time we participate in a simulation like Crimson Sky, we are able to fine tune our plan and be more effective in our collaboration with local, state and federal agencies," she added.

North Carolina's Food and Mouth disease response plan has become a model for state and federal agencies throughout the country.

## AHI survey: antibiotic use decreasing

A survey of Animal Health Institute members shows that the volume of antibiotics used in animals in the U.S. steadily declined over the past three years. In 2001, 21.8 million pounds of antibiotics were sold, dropping from 23.7 million pounds in 2000 and 24 million in 1999.

The survey data include antibiotics used for both farm and companion animals.

"Veterinarians and livestock and poultry producers are constantly evaluating their use of antibiotics as part of the judicious use of these products," said AHI President and CEO Alexander S. Mathews. "While meat production between 1999 and 2001 rose 1.1 million pounds, use of antibiotics is not rising. The amount of antibiotics used per pound of meat produced is going down."

Therapeutic use of antibiotics to treat, control and prevent disease continues to comprise more than 80 percent of total use, despite claims that a majority of antibiotics are fed unnecessarily to health animals.

Mathews pointed out that the European ban of antibiotics for use in growth promotion has sparked significant increases in the use of more modern antibiotics, and those in classes used in human medicine.

Denmark, frequently cited as a model of responsible antibiotic use, has seen a 96 percent increase in the use of therapeutic drugs for animals since 1996. "The striking increase in animal disease and the need for therapeutic intervention works against the interests of public health," he said.

## NIAA announces dates, locations for 2003, 2004 Annual Meeting

The 2003 annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture will take place April 6-10 at The Westin Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio. Program and registration information will be made available after Jan. 1, 2003, on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org.

The 2004 NIAA Annual Meeting has been scheduled for April 3-8 in Salt Lake City, Utah at the Marriott City Center.

# NIAA Board Chairman makes committee leadership appointments

Since accepting the reigns as the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Chairman of the Board this past spring, Kenneth E. Olson has been busy making leadership appointments to the organization's committee structure. The new leaders will serve during Olson's tenure as board chairman, through April 2004.

NIAA currently maintains 15 species-based and issue-based committees.

In making the appointments, Olson said, "We are fortunate to have individuals with their knowledge and expertise to lead NIAA's committees. The caliber of leadership we have been able to assemble here is world-class."

Additionally, Olson named several committees of the board that he has charged with various responsibilities, including long-range planning, membership, annual meeting planning, a committee to plan an international study tour and one to review NIAA's policies and procedures for issuing resolutions and position statements.

Leadership appointments to the Animal Production Food Safety, Emerging Diseases, and Poultry Health Committees are unconfirmed at this time.

**CATTLE HEALTH**
**Dr. Leroy Coffman, Chair**
Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Serv.
**Raleigh Wilkerson, Vice Chair**
Alabama Farmers Federation

**EQUINE HEALTH**
**Dr. Marvin Beeman, Chair**
American Horse Council
**Dr. Peter Timoney, Vice Chair**
University of Kentucky

**SHEEP HEALTH**
**Dr. Cindy Wolf, Chair**
University of Minnesota
**Dr. Larue Johnson, Vice Chair**
American Assn. of Small Ruminant Practitioners

**SWINE HEALTH**
**Dr. Howard Hill, Chair**
Iowa Select Farms
**Dr. David Nolan, Vice Chair**
Cargill Pork

**ANIMAL CARE**
**Dr. Temple Grandin, Chair**
Individual Member
**Dr. Jake Hines, Vice Chair**
American Association of Bovine Practitioners

**ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
**Dr. Dee Ellis, Chair**
Texas Animal Health Commission
**June Reed, Vice Chair**
Individual Member

**ANIMAL HEALTH & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
**Dr. Beth Lautner, Chair**
National Pork Board
**Dr. Alfonso Torres, Vice Chair**
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

**ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
**Neil Hammerschmidt, Chair**
Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium
**Dr. Mark Engle, Vice Chair**
National Pork Board

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
**Kevin Kirk, Chair**
Michigan Department of Agriculture
**David Miller, Vice Chair**
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**
**Dr. Jeff Goodwin, Chair**
University of Idaho
**Jodi Black, Vice Chair**
The Ohio State University

**BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION TASK FORCE**
**Dr. Max Coats, Chair**
Texas Animal Health Commission
**Dr. Claude Barton, Vice Chair**
Individual Member

**PSEUDORABIES ERADICATION TASK FORCE**
**Jim Leafstedt, Chair**
National Pork Board
**Dr. Paul Anderson, Vice Chair**
Minnesota Board of Animal Health

## Special Committees of the Board

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**
Dr. Rick Sibbel, Chair - Schering-Plough Animal Health
Dr. Rich Breitmeyer - California Department of Food & Agriculture
Dr. Rafael Seneriz - Elanco Animal Health
Scott Stuart - National Livestock Producers Assn.
Tom Wenstrand - Hawkeye Steel Products, Inc.
Glenn Slack - NIAA

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
Jim Stocker, Chair - Individual Member
Jim Fraley - Illinois Farm Bureau
Dr. Tom McGinn - North Carolina Dept. of Ag.
Michelle Thomas - NIAA

**BOARD ACTION AND RESOLUTION PROCESS COMMITTEE**
Joe Miller, Chair - American Farm Bureau Fed.
Tom Cook - National Renderers Association
Glenn Slack - NIAA

**ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE**
Jim Fraley, Chair - Illinois Farm Bureau
David Berry - Hartford Livestock Business Group
Jon Caspers - Iowa Pork Producers Association
Dr. Burnadette Dunham - American Veterinary Medical Association
Nancy Robinson - Livestock Marketing Assn.
David White - Ohio Livestock Coalition
Michelle Thomas - NIAA

**INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR COMMITTEE**
Dr. Will Hueston, Chair - Univ. of Minnesota
Jon Johnson - Texas Farm Bureau
Kevin Maher - GlobalVetLink, L.C.
Glenn Slack - NIAA

PHOTO CREDIT: HOLLY SLUSARCZYK

Neil Hammerschmidt (left), chairman of NIAA's Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee, is interviewed by Tom Cassidy, a farm broadcaster with Ag. Radio Network in Utica, N.Y. The interview took place during the National Assn. of Farm Broadcasters' "Trade Talk" session, held during NAFB's summer meeting in June in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Hammerschmidt and NIAA CEO Glenn Slack were on hand to discuss the establishment of a national system for animal identification in the United States and plans for NIAA's ID/INFO EXPO 2002.

## 2002-2003 Resolutions Booklet now available

The 2002-2003 NIAA Resolutions and Position Statements booklet is now available. The booklet contains 79 resolutions and positions statements originating from NIAA's 15 committees and as adopted by the NIAA Board of Directors at the 2002 NIAA Annual Meeting. Complimentary copies have been mailed to every NIAA member. Additional copies are available. To request a copy, phone 270-782-9798 or send an email request to NIAA@animalagriculture.org.

# NIAA welcomes the following as new members!!

***National Associations & Commercial Organizations:***

Pfizer, Inc.
*Contacts:*
Dr. David Hallas
150 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dr. Steve Sornsen
2924 Ridgetop Road
Ames, IA 50014

Prestage Farms, Inc.
*Contact:*
Clark Peterson
P.O. Box 438
Clinton, NC 28329

***State-level Associations & Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies:***

Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center
*Contact:*
Dr. M. Douglas Cox
P.O. Box 2000
Hopkinsville, KY 42241-2000

***Individual Member (Self-employed):***

Dr. Angela Basinger
Route 2, Box 45
Bruning, NE 68322

***Affiliate Membership (Non-voting):***

Brakke Consulting, Inc.
*Contact:*
Mr. Ronald S. Brakke
2735 Villa Creek, Suite 140
Dallas, TX 75234

DynCom, Inc.
*Contact:*
Mr. Curt Jansen
3101 Kintzley Ct., Suite B
LaPorte, CO 80535

The Hale Group
*Contact:*
Donald M. Senechal
8 Cherry Street
Danvers, MA 01923

International Performance Registry
*Contact:*
Mr. Dan Stewart
550 W. Kentucky Street
Louisville, KY 40203

Dr. Ralph C. Knowles
1825 Mooring Line Drive
Vero Veach, FL 32963-3059

Dr. Gino Caputo
Sinted Spa
Via C. Fracassini 25
Rome, Italy 00196

Michelle Thomas, NIAA Director of Member Relations, reports to board members during the 2002 NIAA Leaders Forum. For information about membership in NIAA, contact Michelle at (270) 782-9798, Ext. 105 or mthomas@animalagriculture.org.

# Renewing members!!

*(during the past quarter)*

***National Associations & Commercial Organizations:***

ALPHARMA
American Sheep Industry Association
Cargill Pork
Holstein Association USA
Ketchum Manufacturing, Inc.
Monsanto Dairy Business
Murphy Farms, Inc.
National Livestock Producers Association

***State-level Associations & Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies:***

Alabama Farmers Federation
Centers for Epidemiology & Animal Health
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Illinois Pork Council
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
Illinois Milk Producers Association
Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
University of Kentucky
Maryland Department of Agriculture
University of Minnesota
Minnesota Board of Animal Health
University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
University of Missouri Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
Missouri Department of Agriculture, Animal Health
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
North Carolina Department of Agriculture
North Dakota State Board of Animal Health
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture
Purdue University Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab
Purdue University Department of Animal Science
South Carolina Pork Board
South Dakota Animal Industry Board
South Dakota State University Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

***Individual Members (Self-employed):***

Richard Brauer
Dr. Jeff Galle
Dr. Temple Grandin
Robert Jameson
Robert Kleemeier
Dr. Ken Olson
Dr. Temple Grandin
Max Waldo

***Affiliate Membership (Non-voting):***

LTC. Jeff Melander
National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Dr. Helen Noble

# Leaders discuss NIAA's future, national biosecurity

National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) leaders gathered in August for the 2002 NIAA Leaders Forum. The NIAA board of directors and some of its key committee leaders met in Bowling Green, Ky., home of NIAA's national headquarters.

The mid-year board of directors meeting is held annually during the forum. In addition, NIAA leaders received briefings from various industry leaders and government officials. Special committees of the board, including the long-range planning committee, a committee planning an international study tour and others, also met during the forum.

Billy Ray Smith, president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, welcomed NIAA leaders to the Bluegrass State and expressed appreciation for the work the organization does for U.S. animal agriculture. Other speakers included Drs. Ron DeHaven and John Clifford, who offered briefings on homeland security and activities at USDA's APHIS-Veterinary Services; Dr. Tom McGinn, director of emergency programs at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, who participated in a recent Defense department test exercise simulating a bioterrorist introduction of a foreign animal disease; and Dr. Joseph T. Spence of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Approximately 30 leaders and staff participated in the forum. In addition, NIAA members based in the Kentucky-Tennessee area were invited to participate in a Bluegrass reception and sit in on the industry/government briefings. A cookout was held at the association's headquarters, allowing NIAA leaders to tour the office and get acquainted with office staff.

NASDA President Billy Ray Smith discusses his organization's position on the proposed Department of Homeland Security. Also on the panel are (l-r): Joe Miller, American Farm Bureau Federation and Dr. Alfonso Torres, Cornell University. NIAA Board Chairman Dr. Ken Olson (right) moderated the discussion.

NIAA leaders and staff discuss issues at a reception held during NIAA Leaders Forum. In the foreground, NIAA Financial Administrator Pamela Meador chats with Jon Caspers, president-elect of the National Pork Producers Council. In the background are Joe Miller and Dr. Ken Olson.

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