

# animal agriculture

winter 2002

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

## NIAA Sets New Direction for Publications

*New quarterly newsletters covering equine, poultry health unveiled*

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has announced several changes in its communications efforts -- changes that are designed to enhance the coverage of animal health news among animal agriculture professionals in the United States. NIAA President and Chief Executive Officer, Glenn N. Slack, made the announcement recently at its headquarters in Bowling Green, Ky.

NIAA publishes a series of quarterly newsletters devoted to coverage of animal health news and information. In addition to NIAA's *Cattle Health*

*Report*, *Sheep Health Report* and *Swine Health and Epidemiology Report*, the non-profit, membership organization has unveiled two new quarterly publications, the *Equine Health Report* and *Poultry Health Report*.

Johnson and Houghton also provide services to other notable agriculture interests including John Deere publications, *Progressive Farmer*, *Successful Farming* and *America's Horse* magazines.



"We are fortunate to have Jerilyn and Dean join the NIAA team and help lead our efforts to provide animal agriculture professionals with pertinent animal health news and information," said Slack. "They

Among the changes is new editorial direction and oversight. NIAA has contracted with two veteran agriculture industry journalists, Dean Houghton and Jerilyn Johnson of JDH Communications, Polo, Mo. Houghton, a former editor of *Hogs Today* magazine and Johnson, a former editor of *Beef Today* and *Angus Journal* magazines, are both national award-winning journalists. Each has received Writer of the Year and Photographer of the Year honors by the American Agricultural Editors Association (AAEA). Houghton was also recognized by AAEA last year for top Internet reporting.

will enhance NIAA's efforts to deliver a quality product to our audiences." The husband-wife duo have a strong, diversified background in farm animal production and are currently involved in Hampshire sheep production and Quarter Horse breeding on the Houghton family farm near Polo, Mo.

Slack said the introduction of the equine and poultry publications will bring a new consistent look that will be carried over to the cattle, sheep and swine newsletters. "It's important that this group of newsletters has an image that readers will recognize regardless of their specie interest. The new look is very practical, yet profes-

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## Animal identification to be highlighted during summer conference and trade show

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has announced ID/INFO EXPO 2002, a conference and trade show devoted to the subject of animal identification and information systems.

The event will take place in Chicago, Ill., July 29, 30, 31 and August 1, and will feature the National Food Animal Identification Symposium the first-ever National Equine Identification Symposium and a trade show featuring manufacturers and service providers in the animal identification and information systems business sector.

NIAA, formerly known as the Livestock Conservation Institute, has previously facilitated three livestock,

or food animal, identification conferences in 1998, 1994 and 1988. This one figures to be the largest.

The preliminary schedule of events has the National Equine Identification Symposium scheduled for July 29 and 30 and the National Food Animal Identification Symposium scheduled for July 31 and August 1. The trade show will span both conferences.

Program and registration information will be published in April. Individuals wanting to make sure they are included on the mailing list are encouraged to go to [www.animalagriculture.org/id](http://www.animalagriculture.org/id) on the Internet and fill out an online information request card.

**ID • INFO**  
**EXPO 2002**



*Joe Miller, American Farm Bureau Federation, Dr. Richard Hull (middle), NIAA Chairman of the Board, & Jim Hodges, American Meat Institute, share a light moment during the **National Dialogue on Animal Disease Surveillance**, March 12, in Arlington, Va. Coverage of this NIAA-facilitated conference will appear in the spring issue of **animal agriculture**.*

## NIAA Sets New Direction for Publications

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

sional and appealing," Slack said.

Slack said readers can expect more timely dissemination of the newsletters and a "more reader-friendly" format of news presentation.

The current group of publications evolved from a series of disease specific newsletters established in the late '80's and early '90's. "While those communication vehicles served a purpose, they usually only focused on federal eradication programs, regulatory diseases as they were called, and often ignored economically significant health issues affecting our animal populations."

Slack said, combined, approxi-

mately 25,000 newsletters will be mailed to animal agriculture stakeholders and animal health professionals each quarter.

NIAA publishes the newsletters with financial support from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the purpose of disseminating pertinent animal health news and information. There is no charge to be added to the mailing list for any of the publications. To subscribe to one or more of the publications, contact Julie Jones at 270-782-9798 or [jjones@animalagriculture.org](mailto:jjones@animalagriculture.org).

## Ken Olson set to take reigns during annual meeting

Ken Olson, Ph.D., will assume the position of chairman of the board during the annual membership meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Olson is an independent consultant, working in the areas of dairy policy, animal welfare and animal health.

Previously, he was the dairy and animal health policy specialist with American Farm Bureau Federation. Prior to joining AFBF in 1989, Olson was an extension dairy specialist with the Univ. of Kentucky. He is a native of Black River Falls, Wis., where his family still operates a dairy farm. Olson resides with his wife, Barbara, in Schaumburg, Ill. The Olsons have two daughters who are currently pursuing a college education.

Olson is a past recipient of the Chairman's Award, which recognizes NIAA's Volunteer of the Year. He has been a member of NIAA, previously the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI), since 1989 and has served on several committees, in addition to the being a member of the board of directors.

Olson has served as Vice Chairman of the Board, or Chairman-elect, for the past two years, during which time he has chaired the Annual Meeting Planning Group. He will replace Dr. Richard Hull, Illinois Department of Agriculture, who was elected in 2000.

**animal  
agriculture**

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

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## news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs

### Defense Appropriation Act includes agricultural protection

President Bush signed the Defense Appropriations Act into law on Jan. 10, providing an additional \$328 million in USDA funding for homeland security protection. This includes \$105 million for APHIS pest and disease monitoring; \$80 million for upgrading USDA facilities and security; \$50 million for a biocontainment facility at the National Animal Disease Laboratory; \$40 million for the Agricultural Research Service; \$23 million for the Plum Island Animal Disease Center; \$15 million for security upgrades and bioterrorism protection for the FSIS; and \$14 million for increased security at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

### ARS administrator detailed to Homeland Security

Dr. Floyd Horn has been appointed as the new director of Food, Agriculture and Water Security, Prevention and Protection in the Office of Homeland Security. Horn is on detail from his position as administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The mission of the Homeland Security Office is to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks.

### Survey says consumer views on irradiation are changing

A survey conducted in November 2001 found that consumers have moved from trepidation to a strong level of support for irradiation – with 52 percent saying the U.S. government should require irradiation to help ensure safe food.

Peter Novelli, a global public relations firm that regularly conducts opinion research on food, nutrition, health

### Bush 2003 budget proposal aims to protect food supply

The Bush administration released its budget proposal for 2003 on Feb. 4. It includes \$2.367 billion to fight sabotage and protect the nation's food supply from plant and animal diseases. That amount is up \$146 million from the current USDA budget. Areas relating to animal protection include:

- \$48 million increase for animal health monitoring to quickly identify potential threats and improve the emergency management system that coordinates and implements rapid response to animal or plant pest or disease outbreak.
- \$19 million increase in the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection program. It will provide additional inspectors, expanding canine teams and high definition x-ray machines at high-risk ports of entry. It will build staffing at ports of entry to 3,974, a 55% increase since 1999.

- \$12 million increase for APHIS programs to expand diagnostic, response and management.
- \$28 million increase to support FSIS food safety activities, including 7,600 meat, poultry and egg products inspectors. Also includes \$14.5 million to improve information technology infrastructure and risk management systems and \$2.7 million for slaughter epidemiological surveys and risk prevention.
- \$34 million increase to support research aimed at protecting agriculture and food systems from diseases and pests and to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in humans due to pathogens and other threats to the food supply.
- \$5 million increase to strengthen the capability of APHIS to assess and monitor outbreaks of diseases in foreign countries that have the potential to spread to the U.S.

and social issues, conducted the survey among 1,008 U.S. adults.

Just a year earlier, only 11 percent of consumers said they would buy irradiated foods if they were available. But, in the survey conducted last November, almost two-thirds (64%) of the consumers said they are concerned about contamination of the U.S. food supply.

### Veneman selects Acord as APHIS administrator

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has selected Bobby Acord as administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. In this position, Acord has responsibility for protecting U.S. agricultural health from exotic pests and diseases; administering the Animal Welfare Act; and carrying out wildlife damage management activities.

Acord served as associate administrator beginning in 1999 under Craig Reed, who stepped down last year as

administrator to take a position at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Prior to that, Acord served nearly a decade as deputy administrator for APHIS' Wildlife Services program.

Acord is a graduate of West Virginia State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in animal science in 1966.

### Swine industry passes historic milestone in PRV eradication effort

When Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge announced on Jan. 14 that Iowa had eradicated pseudorabies virus (PRV) from the state's last known infected herd, she was saying so much more. It also marked the first time since the beginning of the pseudorabies eradication effort that there were no PRV-quarantined herds in the nation.

NIAA Chief Executive Officer Glenn

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Slack called the zero infection mark "a major milestone" for the industry. "The pork industry put together a great plan with unprecedented coordination between producers, animal health officials and veterinarians," he said. "There's still work ahead, but it's exciting to see the end of pseudorabies close at hand."

The zero mark stood less than two weeks, however, until Iowa officials discovered another infected site through regulator monitoring of sow herds. The new case appears to be an isolated instance and animal health officials in Iowa and elsewhere expect monitoring and surveillance efforts to expose any last remaining vestiges of the disease in the coming months.

Another major pork-producing state, Illinois, was recently declared PRV-free after not reporting any PRV infection for the required 12-month window. Only 10 states have yet to obtain the Stage V, PRV-free designation.

## Bush speaks at NCBA convention in Denver

President Bush spoke to more than 5,000 cattle industry members attending the 2002 National Cattlemen's Beef Association annual convention. During his remarks, Mr. Bush outlined his commitment to a \$73.5 billion U.S. Farm Bill that is affordable, provides fair and expanded international trade, includes farm savings accounts for ranching families, and recognizes the role of ranchers in land conservation.

The President praised convention attendees and all ranchers across the country for their values of hard work, family and self-reliance. He pointed to recent victories by American ranchers, including this country's ability to keep foreign animal diseases out of America's cattle herds.

On the international trade front, the President renewed his commitment to ensuring beef producers have the opportunity to market U.S. beef to consumers around the world. "We want the people in China eating U.S. beef," the President said.

## Lester Crawford named FDA deputy commissioner

HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson has named Lester M. Crawford, Jr., DVM, PhD, to serve as deputy commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, effective immediately. As deputy commissioner, Dr. Crawford will be the senior official at FDA, pending the installment of a permanent commissioner of food and drugs.

"Lester Crawford has devoted his career to promoting safer products for the public, and he brings to the FDA valuable experience and leadership skills," Secretary Thompson said. "With his help, the FDA will continue to build on its successes in ensuring the safety of foods, drugs and medical products for all Americans."

Dr. Crawford most recently served as head of the Center for Food and Nutrition Policy at Virginia Tech, and prior to that when the Center was affiliated with Georgetown

University. He also served as administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service from 1987 to 1991 and as director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine from 1978 to 1980, and again from 1982 to 1985.

He received a degree in veterinary medicine from Auburn University in 1963 and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Georgia in 1969.

During his career, he has also served as executive director of the Association of

American Veterinary Medical Colleges, executive vice president of the National Food Processors Association, as chairman of the University of Georgia Department of Physiology-Pharmacology and as a practicing veterinarian.

FDA carries a budget of nearly \$1.6 billion and more than 9,000 employees.



*Dr. Lester Crawford, in 1998, speaking at an LCI-facilitated food safety workshop.*

## Terry Stokes to take helm at National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Terry L. Stokes has been named chief executive officer of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), effective immediately. Stokes is currently the organization's executive vice president and chief financial officer, and has served as interim CEO since the departure of Chuck Schroeder in February.

Stokes joined NCBA as CFO in 1996, and added the assignment of executive vice president in 1999. Before joining NCBA he was the executive vice president and CFO for the Texas Beef Council. A native Texan, he currently partners with his brother-in-law in a small stocker operation in southern Texas.

## Buntain named FSIS chief veterinary medical officer

Dr. Bonnie Buntain has been named chief veterinary medical officer at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. In this capacity, Buntain will serve as the administrator's key policy analyst and advisor on matters concerning veterinary medical science and public health. The CVMO is a new position.

Prior to this appointment, Buntain was assistant deputy administrator in FSIS' Office of Public Health and Science and had served as the first director of FSIS' Animal Production Food Safety Staff. Prior to joining FSIS, she was National Program Leader for Veterinary Medicine with the USDA Extension Service.

## news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs

### Britain declares foot-and-mouth epidemic over

Less than a year after Great Britain's livestock industry was hit with a widespread foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has classified all counties in Britain as FMD Free. On Jan. 14, Northumberland was the last county in the U.K. to be declared free.

At a meeting of the OIE (Office of International des Epizooties) on Jan. 22, a panel of experts agreed to restore the U.K.'s "FMD free status without vaccination" for the purposes of international trade.

Food and Farming Minister, Lord Whitty, said "This is a very encouraging step and extremely good news for farmers. But we must not lower our guard; there is a great deal of work still to do with more testing, careful restocking, and implementation of a new movement regime for livestock."

In total, there were 2,030 confirmed cases of FMD in the U.K. The last case was diagnosed in on Sept. 30.

### Neil Dierks named CEO of National Pork Producers

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) has announced the appointment of Neil Dierks as chief executive officer of the organization, effective Feb. 12. Dierks succeeds Al Tank who resigned last October.

Dierks has served NPPC in several senior executive positions since 1990, including executive director of operations, vice president for research and education and senior vice president for programs. He grew up on a livestock farm in eastern Iowa and remains involved in a family farming operation.

In October, Steven D. Murphy was named CEO of the newly reorganized National Pork Board.

### Levings fills vacant directorship at NVSL

Randall L. Levings, DVM, has been appointed director of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. In making the announcement, APHIS administrator Bobby Acord said "Randall brings a wealth of scientific and leadership expertise to this very crucial position in our organization."

As director, Levings will serve as the lead manager for the laboratory and its supporting units. NVSL consists of four testing laboratories, three located in Ames, Iowa, and the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, which is located on Plum Island, N.Y.

Levings served most recently as director of the Center for Veterinary Biologics, the center within APHIS that regulates vaccines, bacterins, antisera, diagnostic kits and other products of biological origin.

### Torres named director of Cornell's diagnostic laboratory

Dr. Alfonso Torres, deputy administrator for veterinary services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has been named director of the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine.

In his new position, which was effective Feb. 2002, Torres also will serve as a professor in the veterinary college's Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences. Torres was a faculty member at Cornell in the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1983 to 1987.

Torres succeeds Donald H. Lein, who led the diagnostic laboratory from 1987 until his retirement in June 2001. Lein, now professor emeritus, has been a member of the Cornell faculty since 1974.

Dr. John Clifford, an assistant under Torres, was appointed acting deputy

administrator for USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services until a permanent successor to Torres is named.

### Chronic Wasting Disease detected in three Wisconsin deer

Biologists, conservation wardens, veterinarians and epidemiologists from three state agencies will test more deer, talk to hunters, and do aerial surveys in their efforts to learn how widespread chronic wasting disease is among whitetail deer, and where that disease might have come from.

Results Feb. 28 from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, showed that three deer shot during the 2001 gun deer-hunting season tested positive for chronic wasting disease, or CWD. The disease is not known to be contagious to humans or to animal species other than deer and elk.

CWD is a neurologic disease of deer and elk. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which include scrapie that can affect sheep and goats and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, which can affect cattle.

State officials note that CWD is no threat to cattle or sheep. It does threaten the state's farm-raised deer and elk along with the free-ranging whitetail herd.

CWD has been known to occur in deer and elk in North America since 1967. It occurs in wild deer and elk primarily in northeastern Colorado and adjacent parts of Wyoming and Nebraska. CWD has also been found on elk farms in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Saskatchewan.

A World Health Organization panel of experts reviewed all the available information on CWD and concluded that there is no scientific evidence that CWD can infect humans. Yet, WHO also says no part of deer or elk with evidence of CWD should be eaten by people or animals.

# *NIAA welcomes the following as new members!!*

## **National Association and Commercial Organizations:**

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners

*Contact:*

Dr. David McCrystle  
1910 Lyda Avenue, Suite 200  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

American Horse Council

*Contact:*

Ms. Amy Mann  
1700 K. Street NW #300  
Washington DC 20006

eMerge Interactive

*Contacts:*

Mr. Dave Warren and  
Mr. Scott Mathews  
10305 102nd Terrace  
Sebastian, FL 32958

IdentityPreserved.com

*Contact:*

Mr. Bill Grande  
201 South Main  
P.O. Box 47  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

National Band and Tag Company

*Contact:*

Mr. Kevin Haas  
P.O. Box 430  
Newport, KY 41072-0430

## **State-level Associations and Publicly-supported Institutions/Agencies:**

Arkansas Farm Bureau

*Contacts:*

Mr. Travis Justice and Mr. Bruce  
Tencleve  
P.O. Box 31  
Little Rock, AR 72203

Illinois Beef Association

*Contact:*

Ms. Maralee M. Johnson  
2060 West Iles Avenue, Suite B  
Springfield, IL 62704

Kansas Farm Bureau

*Contact:*

Mr. Mark Nelson  
2627 KFB Plaza  
Manhattan, KS 66503

Kansas State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

*Contact:*

Dr. Ralph Richardson  
101 Trotter Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-5601

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

*Contact:*

Mr. Ron Harrell  
9516 Airline Hwy  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

*Contacts:*

Dr. Konrad Eugster, Dr. Melissa (Mitzi)  
Libal and Dr. Lelve Gayle  
P.O. Box 3040  
College Station, TX 77841

## **Individual Membership (Self-employed):**

Dr. Harry Michael Chaddock  
2301 S. Jefferson Davis Highway, Apt. 322  
Arlington, VA 22202

Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt  
4 Burt Street  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Dr. Wendell Peden  
2909 South Highway 79  
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

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

Ms. Sarah Meibusch  
AniGenics, Inc.  
2201 W. Campbell Park Drive  
Chicago, IL 60612

Mr. Mysore G. Nagaraj  
P.O. Box 1099  
Lewistown, PA 17044-1099

Dr. William G. Queen  
Clemson University  
Department of Research Services  
Godley-Snell Research Center  
Clemson, SC 29634-5708

Mr. Les Stutzman  
bioMerieux INDUSTRY  
100 Rodolphe Street  
Durham, NC 27712

Mr. Adam Yankowsky  
BIOCOR Animal Health  
2720 N. 84th Street  
Omaha, NE 68134

Ms. Heather Hampton+Knodle  
Illinois Coalition for Animal Agriculture  
201 West Fairground Avenue  
Hillsboro, IL 62049

*“To be the forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communications linkages to animal agriculture professionals.”*

*This statement, our mission, truly reflects NIAA – where it's been, where it is, and where it's going.*

# **Welcome to NIAA!**

# Renewing members!!

(during the past quarter)

## National Association and Commercial Organizations:

American Association of Avian Pathologists  
 American Association of Equine Practitioners  
 American Farm Bureau Federation  
 American Sheep Industry Association  
 American Veterinary Medical Association  
 Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.  
 Goldsboro Farms  
 Hawkeye Steel Products  
 IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.  
 Iowa Select Farms  
 Livestock Marketing Association  
 Loveland Industries, Inc.  
 Murphy Farms, LLC  
 National Livestock Producers Association  
 National Meat Association  
 National Renderers Association  
 PIC USA  
 Schering-Plough Animal Health  
 The Hartford, Livestock Business Group  
 Viral Antigens, Inc.  
 Wiechman Pig Company, Inc.

Joint Institute for Food Safety Research  
 Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation  
 Michigan Department of Agriculture  
 Michigan Pork Producers Association  
 Michigan State University  
 Montana Department of Livestock  
 University of Minnesota  
 Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
 Nevada Department of Agriculture  
 New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
 North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
 North Carolina Pork Council  
 The Ohio State University  
 Ohio Livestock Coalition  
 Ohio Department of Agriculture  
 Oklahoma Department of Agriculture  
 Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
 Texas Farm Bureau  
 Washington Department of Agriculture  
 West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
 Wisconsin Department of Agriculture  
 Wyoming Livestock Board

## State-level Associations and Publicly-supported Institutions/Agencies:

Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission  
 California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory  
 California Department of Food and Agriculture  
 California Farm Bureau Federation  
 Cornell University Diagnostic Laboratory  
 Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
 Idaho Department of Agriculture  
 Illinois Farm Bureau  
 Illinois Pork Council  
 Indiana Board of Animal Health

## Individuals (Self-employed):

Dr. Robert Kahrs  
 Ms. June Reed  
 Mr. Ken VanGilst

## Affiliate Membership (Non-voting):

Dr. Julie Ann Jarvinen  
 Dr. G. Kee Jim  
 Dr. David McCrystle  
 National Bison Association  
 Mr. John A. Shaddock

For a complete NIAA membership listing, visit our website at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org).

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ 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.



## Agriculture Secretary Veneman to address nation's animal agriculture professionals in Chicago



U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman will address animal agriculture professionals who will gather in Chicago later this month for the 2002 Annual Meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA).

In her remarks, Secretary Veneman is expected to address the Bush administration's initiatives relative to homeland security and steps being taken by USDA and other agencies to protect the nation's food animal population from acts of terrorism. Veneman and other keynote speakers

will address efforts to safeguard the U.S. from the introduction of foot-and-mouth (FMD) and other foreign animal diseases that have been affecting other countries. Scheduled for March 24-28, at the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago, Ill., this gathering will include producers, veterinarians, business executives, scientists, academicians, state and federal animal health officials and other stakeholders in the animal food and fiber industry. Considerable attention will be devoted to food and agricultural security, bioterrorism, animal health safeguarding and emerging diseases.

NIAA committees will present 15 information-packed seminars address-

ing the breadth of issues affecting animal agriculture today. Other groups that will meet in conjunction with the NIAA Annual Meeting are the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, National Johne's Working Group, and the National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering Committee.

NIAA's mission is to be the forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages for animal agriculture professionals. More information on the 2002 NIAA Annual Meeting can be found on the Internet at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org), or by calling 270-782-9798.

***NIAA...where animal agriculture comes together.***

1910 Lyda Avenue  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

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winter 2002  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 82  
Bowling Green, KY  
42104