

animal agriculture

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Administration official challenges NIAA members to create "culture of awareness without fear"

Maximum Preparedness... Safeguarding Animal Agriculture



2003 NIAA Annual Meeting Cincinnati, Ohio

Saying that 9/11 put an entirely new dimension on the sense of vulnerability associated with agriculture, Deputy Agriculture Secretary Jim Moseley believes the time to be concerned is now — *before*, rather than *when*, the agriculture industry is faced with an act of agroterrorism.

"Unfortunately, animal agriculture is one of the probable targets for an economic attack on this country," said Moseley, speaking at the National

Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) Annual Meeting this past April in Cincinnati, Ohio. "We know from intelligence reports that some terrorists watched, took note of the events as they unfolded in Great Britain with foot-and-mouth disease."

The owner of a farming operation himself, Moseley is concerned that the production sector has yet to accept that a terrorist attack on U.S. agriculture and food systems is a likely event. "While I have observed a major commitment from the up-the-chain part of agriculture, I've got to tell you I still remain very concerned at the ground level," said Moseley. "Producers are not yet fully engaged for the potential dangers and risks."

"Unfortunately, animal agriculture is one of the probable targets for an economic attack on this country."

"There's no one better to say that or understand it than a farmer. I know what it's like to deal with the daily challenges of producing commodities," he said. "I understand how easy it is to get really focused on immediate problems and issues about farming. When you do that, you end up forgetting about the secondary things, the external pressures and threats. But, I also know as the one that gets briefings and updates daily about what the potential threats are, that the threat to agriculture is real."

A Purdue University graduate and operator of a grain and hog farm in Indiana, Moseley said he was exposed



Deputy Agriculture Secretary Jim Moseley

to animal agriculture at an early age. "I grew up on a farm, a very diversified farm in Indiana: cows, hogs, chickens."

Moseley said that just after the tragic terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a homeland security council. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman directed Moseley to lead USDA's efforts. "Our mission was clear and simple: protect the production system, the food supply, and our own USDA staff and facilities," he said.

Moseley said the first call to action at the agency is "to alert the food and agriculture community to the need for extra caution and to build a higher level of understanding about the vulnerabilities without creating unnecessary anxiety for the public."

Moseley is a proponent of a "national strategy" using partnerships at all levels to fight agroterrorism — federal, state, local, public and private sectors. "Terrorism brings all of us to the front line," he said.

Moseley said both prevention and

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Veneman announces reduction in quarantines for END

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has eliminated the last remaining areas quarantined for exotic Newcastle disease in Arizona, Nevada and Texas and reduced the quarantined area in California. This action removes restrictions on the movement of birds, poultry and certain other articles from those areas.

"I commend the efforts of the federal and state officials who have worked so hard to manage this disease," said Veneman. "This is an example of what the state and federal partnership can accomplish in animal disease eradication."

Exotic Newcastle disease was first confirmed in backyard poultry in southern California in October 2002 and in commercial poultry in December 2002. It was later identified in Nevada and Arizona in January and February 2003, respectively. In April, the disease was also diagnosed in Texas.

British emergency veterinary reserve proposed

A new corps of private sector veterinarians, able to join forces with the British government on short notice to fight outbreaks of animal disease, has been announced by Animal Health Minister Ben Bradshaw.

Members of the group would be contracted to do five days paid training each year. In return, they will commit themselves to be available in an emergency. Initially, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be looking to recruit around 100 veterinarians to join the veterinary reserve.

"The veterinary profession responded magnificently to the challenges of the 2001 FMD outbreak," said Bradshaw. "But the episode demon-

strated that existing arrangements are not the most efficient way of using veterinary manpower in a crisis."

Bradshaw said the greatest need in an emergency would be for veterinary team leaders, who are familiar with the contingency plans and would understand the role expected of them.

During training, veterinarians would be told their likely role in any outbreak, take part in exercises and learn the management and organizational structures which would apply in times of emergency.

"It is crucial that the State Veterinary Service is able to respond flexibly to any new disease outbreak; it needs to be able to gear up its numbers very quickly," said Bradshaw.

Court upholds ruling against national beef checkoff

In a case that could have far-reaching implications for the American beef industry, a three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Beef Promotion and Research Act violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. At the same time, the court said the program may continue while the parties decide whether to ask the full Circuit Court to reconsider the decision.

"We are deeply disappointed in the court's ruling, but remain committed to our goal of protecting the future of the beef checkoff," said Eric Davis, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and a beef producer from Bruneau, Idaho.

"We conclude," the Appeals Court said, "that the government's interest in protecting the welfare of the beef industry by compelling all beef producers and importers to pay for generic beef advertising is not sufficiently substantial to justify the infringement" on producers' First Amendment free speech right.

The challenge to the beef checkoff's constitutionality was filed by the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), the Western Organization of

Resource Councils (WORC) and a few individual producers. Defendants in the case are the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, which administers the checkoff, and Nebraska Cattlemen, Inc., which is leading a group of pro-checkoff producers that intervened to support the checkoff.

LMA President Billy Perrin praised the Appeals Court ruling and said, "Hopefully, this decision will bring finality to this long-running dispute."

USDA and the Department of Justice are standing behind the checkoff program and have pledged to aggressively defend it.

"Throughout the lengthy litigation process, we have anticipated that this decision would ultimately need to be made by the U.S. Supreme Court," said Davis.

Canadian officials move quickly to implement recommendations from international BSE review

The Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Health are beginning to implement recommendations of an international team of animal health experts that evaluated Canada's

animal agriculture

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investigation into a single case of BSE detected in an Alberta cow.

The Ministers indicated that the Government of Canada will be responding quickly to the recommendations of the international team, in close consultation with provinces, territories, and Canadian industry. Ministers also indicated that close consultations with US officials and other trading partners on moving ahead will be essential given the integrated North American market.

The report recommended actions in a number of areas to further enhance safeguards to human and animal health. The most immediate of these include putting in place a national requirement that certain animal tissues—known as Specified Risk Materials (SRMs)—be removed from products destined for consumption. Other recommended measures include a review of animal feed restrictions; strengthened tracking and tracing systems; improved disease testing and surveillance; and efforts to improve disease awareness among producers, veterinarians and the public.

“Canada has one of the world’s best food safety systems, and we intend to make our system even safer,” said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief. “The International Team underlined the quality of the Canadian investigation into this case and the effectiveness of measures already in place in Canada to protect the public. The Government of Canada will quickly respond to the panel’s recommendations. In particular, we agree with the need for early action on SRMs and are committed to introducing changes as quickly as possible.”

The international team of animal disease experts traveled to Canada on June 7 to assess the CFIA’s BSE investigation and Canada’s overall BSE protective measures. The team was comprised of scientists from Switzerland, the United States and New Zealand.

Colorado to host Int’l TSE Conference

TSE in Animal Populations — Fact and Fiction, is the theme of an inter-

national conference that will be held in Fort Collins, Colo., Sept. 10-11, 2003. The conference will feature discussions by leading experts on approaches to understand and reduce the spread of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) diseases in animals.

The purpose of the conference is to establish a line of communication between scientists, policy makers, regulators, and the public on topics related to TSEs in animal populations in order to improve future preventive measures.

Scrapie in sheep will be used as a base line disease for contrast and comparison. For more information, contact Pam Timms at aphi@colo.state.edu.

AVMA installs Jack Walther as 140th president

Dr. Jack O. Walther of Lamoille, Nev. was installed as the 140th president of the American Veterinary Medical Association during the association’s recent annual convention in Denver, Colo. Raised on a small ranch

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USDA: Certain ruminant products from Canada will be accepted

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said that, after a thorough scientific analysis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin accepting applications for import permits for certain ruminant derived products from Canada.

The announcement comes after a close review of the international standards set by the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) - the standard-setting organization for animal health for 164 member nations; an exhaustive epidemiological investigation into the case by Canada, during which no other animals were found to be infected; and additional risk mitigation measures put in place

by Canada in response to a review of their investigation by an independent expert panel.

“Our experts have thoroughly reviewed the scientific evidence and determined that the risk to public health is extremely low,” said Veneman.

The list of products the U.S. is prepared to accept include:

- Boneless sheep or goat meat from animals under 12 months of age;
- Boneless bovine meat from cattle under 30 months of age;
- Boneless veal (meat) from calves that were 36 weeks of age or younger at slaughter;
- Fresh or frozen bovine liver;

- Vaccines for veterinary medicine for non-ruminant use; and
- Pet products and feed ingredients that contain processed animal protein and tallow of non-ruminant sources when produced in facilities with dedicated manufacturing lines.

USDA will no longer prohibit the importation of hunter-harvested wild ruminant products intended for personal use.

On May 20, Secretary Veneman temporarily halted imports of live ruminants and most ruminant products from Canada after a cow in Alberta was found to have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

National system for animal identification closer to reality

A national animal identification plan is being developed to help protect American animal agriculture. State animal health officials, livestock industry groups and the federal government are working together to finalize the plan. They hope to have Phase One of the plan, Premises ID, in place by July 2004. This phase would require that standardized premises identification numbers be established for all production operations, markets, assembly points, exhibitions and processing plants.

Once the Premises ID systems are in place, the plan will proceed to Phase Two, which calls for individual identification for cattle in commerce. Other species would require all animals that enter commerce to be identified through individual or group/lot identification.

Phase Two would be in place by the beginning of 2006. The goal is to develop a national standardized program that has the capability to identify all premises and animals that had direct contact with a foreign animal disease within 48 hours of its discovery. This goal may require that certain data be housed in a central database.

“Maintaining the health of the U.S. animal herd is the most urgent issue for the industry and is the most significant focus of the draft plan.”

States, industry and the USDA have been working in partnership on the plan through the National Animal Identification Development Team. The team, which includes a steering committee and five working groups, has produced a draft plan with the working name of the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP). It carries the tagline “Protecting American

Animal Agriculture.”

“The development of a national identification plan has been worked on for several years but the recent BSE experience in Canada has reinforced the need for the U.S. to introduce a national plan as soon as is practicably possible,” said Neil Hammerschmidt, Chief Operating



Officer of the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium and co-chair of the development team's steering committee.

“A national plan which IDs all animals will allow the U.S. to identify any animals exposed to disease and will facilitate stopping the spread of that disease,” said Glenn Slack, president and CEO of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). “This will help protect American animal agriculture from the devastating effects that might occur in the event of a case of BSE, foot and mouth disease or other deleterious diseases ever being discovered in the U.S.”

The draft plan draws on existing voluntary and compulsory animal identification programs currently in place in the U.S. and coordinates these

“...livestock and animal products from the U.S. are highly marketable worldwide. Assuring animal traceability through animal identification adds value to the product.”

into a truly national program for the first time. Details are still to be finalized but the development team expects to complete its work within the next 60 days. It is expected that the plan will then be open to review and comment by industry stakeholders.

“Maintaining the health of the U.S. animal herd is the most urgent issue for the industry and is the most significant focus of the draft plan,” said Hammerschmidt. “The benefits of a national animal health identification system include enhanced disease control and eradication capabilities, rapid containment of foreign animal disease

“Other countries have already developed systems that are being used as technical barriers to trade. These systems are rapidly becoming the world standard. The U.S. needs to be consistent with the animal tracking systems of its international trading partners to avoid the loss of international markets.”

outbreaks and enhanced ability to respond to threats to biosecurity.”

“A national system would also provide benefits to industry in terms of market access and consumer demands,” said Slack. “Source and process verification are gaining consumer momentum, providing producers with an added value opportunity. Also, livestock and animal products from the U.S. are highly marketable worldwide. Assuring animal traceability through animal identification adds value to the product.”

“Furthermore, as more retailers and consumers demand source-verified systems, the ability of producers to sell their products to these markets might depend on the ability to trace animals to the farm of origin,” said

Slack. "Other countries have already developed systems that are being used as technical barriers to trade. These systems are rapidly becoming the world standard. The U.S. needs to be consistent with the animal tracking systems of its international trading partners to avoid the loss of international markets."

"As recently as 1995, nearly nine million calves were identified with orange brucellosis vaccination ear tags," said Hammerschmidt. "That number represented slightly less than one fourth of all the newborn calves or about 45 percent of all female calves (only females are vaccinated). Today, fewer than four million calves are vaccinated (10 percent of total calves, 20 percent of females). The U.S. is very close to declaring itself free from brucellosis. The level of vaccination will continue to decrease, if not cease entirely. The identification of calves to the farm of origin will be minimal in two to three years."

"Without identification, our livestock industries would be vulnerable to any disease situation that required rapid tracking of animal movement."

"Without identification, our livestock industries would be vulnerable to any disease situation that required rapid tracking of animal movement," said Hammerschmidt.

The draft plan follows 18 months of intensive work by USDA, states and industry. In early 2002, NIAA's Animal Identification and Information System Committee organized an NIAA task force comprised of approximately 100 representatives of more than 30 stakeholder groups. After months of work, the task force produced the National Identification Work Plan (NIWP). That plan was presented at the NIAA ID/INFO EXPO in Chicago in

July 2002. The final draft of the NIWP was then presented to the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its annual meeting in October 2002.

The USAHA accepted the plan with a resolution calling for USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, to establish a National Animal Identification Team to develop a national plan, using the NIWP as a guide. With this charge, APHIS, VS identified key industry leaders to serve as the team's Steering Committee. These steering committee members then selected members of five working groups, including Communication, Transition, Standards, Governance and Information Technology.

An official Website containing details of the draft plan, background information, Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the proposed plan and provision for comments about the plan is currently under construction. An announcement as to the Website address will be made shortly.

Prevention strategies vital to counter bioterror threats to American agriculture, animal scientists told

A bioterrorist attack on America's food chain could have huge and far-reaching consequences. The experience of other countries over the last few years has shown the devastating impacts on the farming economy that can be wrought by infectious animal and plant diseases. That was the message of biosecurity expert Dr. Norman Steele speaking at a recent symposium coordinated by the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS).

Steele is a senior biologist with Science Applications International Corporation, based in San Diego and the largest employee-owned research and engineering company in the U.S. He was addressing a FASS-organized symposium 'Issues in Animal Agriculture', part of the 2003 Joint American Society of Animal Science-American Dairy Science Association Annual Meeting held in Phoenix, Ariz. in July.

No single approach

To deal effectively with the bioterror threat, Steele said it was vital to recognize that there could be no single overreaching approach. "The issues important to New Hampshire livestock agriculture are not important in New Mexico," he commented.

Steele reviewed select agent lists for human, animal and plant diseases and listed several plant and animal diseases, which whether introduced by accident or design, represent great threats to US agriculture. Not just foot-and-mouth disease; BSE, anthrax, soybean rust, tularemia, and *bot tox* are equally threatening.

He also outlined some of consequences of a bioterrorist attack on agricultural production and the food chain. These would include massive trade disruption, closure of international markets, collapse of consumer confidence, business closures and loss of jobs.

Vulnerability

Steele explained that the Department of Defense currently defines the threats to the food chain as 'asymmetric' meaning that it is 'a vulnerability not appreciated by the target' and believes terrorists could capitalize on the U.S.' limited preparation against such threats.

This vulnerability could be defined as two-fold. The biotechnology revolution has provided terrorists with a whole new set of tools to facilitate their activities. Meanwhile, recent years have seen the emergence of an array of health and welfare threats such as SARS, which show how our internationalized society makes contagious diseases extremely difficult to control. "Emerging infectious diseases are an example of nature behaving like a bioterrorist," Steele commented.

The ramifications of contagious

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Homeland Security official sees expansion of agricultural inspections at nation's borders

Maximum Preparedness... Safeguarding Animal Agriculture



2003 NIAA Annual Meeting Cincinnati, Ohio

With the recent transfer of over 2,500 employees from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS), many in agriculture are worried about the future of agricultural inspections at the nation's borders and ports. Mary Neal, the associate deputy commissioner of DHS' Border and Customs Protection directorate, sought to put those worries to rest when she spoke to a group of animal agriculture professionals attending the 2003 annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) on April 7 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Neal, who comes to DHS from USDA, said one of the first requirements of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which authorized the consolidation of 22 agencies into one department, was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DHS Secretary Tom Ridge and Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

The agreement delegates the authorities that are found within the Plant Protection Act and the Animal Protection Act and other laws to DHS for implementation. The MOA also details the transfer of certain inspection functions for passengers, cargo, mail, and carriers to DHS, said Neal.

APHIS retains responsibilities for rulemaking, the establishment of policies, plant inspection stations, export certification and risk assessments, and will also continue to train new officers in the agricultural specialty.

Also outlined in the agreement, APHIS will have access to trained personnel for emergencies, such as exotic Newcastle disease.

Neal said the primary mission of Customs and Border Protection is to keep terrorists and terrorists' weapons from entering the U.S. The agricultural inspection mission is "to safeguard agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment or spread of animal and plant pests," a mission DHS now shares with APHIS.

Neal said Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of five directorates in DHS and projects CBP will employ 40-45,000 personnel. "As we see it, the agricultural mission is being enhanced by these numbers, once additional training is provided," she said. "At this time, there is some cross-training that occurs of all (inspectors), but we realize that the scope of what these people are being asked to do, that training is minimal at best; and, so that training is being expanded so we can maximize the use of these employees."

"We are developing and expanding cross-training for customs and immigration inspectors," said Neal. "This is not for them to learn how to do the agriculture mission in total, but it is to increase their awareness of the importance of the job that they do for agriculture." Neal said currently, inspectors not previously involved with agricultural inspections get about four to six hours of training, to which she added is "not nearly enough with the new requirements we have around and in the area of bioterrorism."

"We all know that needs to be expanded...as well as expanding that training, their responsibility for carrying out the mission needs to be enhanced."

Neal said the MOA contains 10 articles and the two DHS and USDA are addressing first are the articles on



Homeland Security Official Mary Neal

reciprocity, the use of personnel back and forth between the two agencies, and rulemaking. "I am happy to say that we've made some progress on both of those articles, and I think we have a plan for how we're going to be able to implement both of those articles to the satisfaction of both parties." She said the MOA will be evaluated annually, and appropriate adjustments made to the agreement.

Another focus for Neal is continuing education. "You can imagine coming into a new department in which agriculture really is like a foreign language, so we spend a great deal of our time educating our colleagues."

Neal said an animal health liaison, a former APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) employee, has been hired by DHS to collaborate daily with APHIS units. She said DHS is also actively involved with the Food and Drug Administration and USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service to implement those portions of the bioterrorism act involved with the monitoring and surveillance of the food supply.

"It is our task to take the actions that will reassure you, and others, that we can protect American agriculture in the DHS environment," Neal told the NIAA audience. "In the long-term we hope to do a better job than we were able to do with a smaller workforce."

Administration official challenges NIAA members to create “culture of awareness without fear”

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response capabilities must be improved to protect the food supply. “If there is one point that emerges consistently through intelligence reports, it’s this: The single most important thing...obviously, is to prevent it, and if an attack is successfully attempted, shortening the response time by intense maximum preparedness.”

“One of the first items I remember from the early briefings on understanding the terrorist mind was their determination to incapacitate the response mechanism. The idea was to strike, and then at the very same time, to minimize the ability of ourselves to respond to it,” he said. “Their practice is to draw people into a situation, and then unleash the real terror.”

Improving U.S. capabilities in tracking shipments of animals and food products is an area Moseley sees as imperative. “We have to know very quickly if we have a problem, where it came from, and where

that product is going.”

“Everyone is responsible for prevention; everyone is the first line of

“You’re an accomplished and motivated group of professionals. You have been trained, and you’re motivated to help people with problems. We need you. The security of the nation depends on you, your expertise and your awareness.”

defense when it comes to the viable security of farms and processing plants in this country,” said Moseley, stating that the NIAA audience is a

part of *everyone*. “The expertise in (NIAA) on animal agriculture is tremendous. It’s immeasurable,” he said.

Moseley urged NIAA members to “seize this unprecedented time in our nation’s history for what it is. Clearly it is a challenge, but also it’s an opportunity to work with us in creating throughout the animal agriculture industry a culture of awareness without fear.”

“You’re an accomplished and motivated group of professionals,” said Moseley to the audience. “You have been trained, and you’re motivated to help people with problems. We need you. The security of the nation depends on you, your expertise and your awareness.”

“We all need to put the very best that we can forward to make sure that production agriculture is very prepared; because I think we all agree, any less than that is absolutely unacceptable.”

Prevention strategies vital to counter bioterror threats to American agriculture, animal scientists told

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animal diseases can be immense. Pointing to the emergence of foot-and-mouth disease in the UK in the spring of 2001, he explained that the greatest cost to the economy was not in agriculture but in tourism. On the possibility of such an event happening in the U.S., his assessment was that it was a matter of *when* and not *if*. “I don’t for a second believe this is outside the realm of possibility – through USDA we have surveillance measures in place, but we were also lucky we didn’t get it [FMD] when it struck U.K.,” he added.

Threat and response

Following raids on an Al Qaeda

training camp in Afghanistan, the US Government found detailed descriptions and notes that could be used in development of a biological weapons program. This tallies information that Al Qaeda leaders have a long-standing interest in the development of biological weapons.

A recent experience in New Zealand illustrated how potentially devastating disease could be if deliberately introduced. There, a farmer introduced a viral hemorrhagic disease of rabbits obtained from China and transported materials through what is, arguably, one of the best biosecurity systems in the world. The result was virtually complete extermi-

nation of the European white rabbit population of New Zealand.

The response to these challenges should involve a robust series of vulnerability assessments and threat analyses, Steele argued. “Effective deterrent strategies, prevention strategies, domestic preparedness drills and further research all need to be put into place. Within the private agribusiness sector, at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations and at regional levels open discussion, debate and planning will be required. This topic should not be restricted to only a USDA responsibility. Food production and security is fundamental to security of the homeland.”

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near Reno, Nev., Walther operates three animal hospitals in the Reno area and serves his profession, community and state in all aspects of leadership.

Elected president-elect and 2004-2005 president was Dr. Bonnie Beaver of Bryant, Texas. A professor in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at Texas A & M University, Beaver is a charter diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and long time champion of improving the bond between people and animals. Beaver is the first woman elected to chair the 140 year-old professional association.

Nearly 9,500 attendees and guests gathered in Denver July 19-23 for the latest information on animal health, public health, food safety, conservation, and other aspects of veterinary medicine.

USDA, APHIS, VS appoints associate deputy administrator for emergency management

APHIS Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services (VS) Dr. Ron DeHaven has announced the selection of Dr. Larry Granger as the new associate deputy administrator for emergency management, a new senior level position with VS.

"Dr. Granger's background and expertise will help VS and APHIS navigate these challenging times of increased national security, END eradication and other issues yet to emerge," said DeHaven. "I know he is up to the challenge and will be a terrific addition to the APHIS team."

Granger most recently served as TB program coordinator for the

Michigan Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, where he coordinated statewide TB eradication efforts in livestock. Granger has been with MDA since 1990.

Before being assigned to his current position in 2000, Granger worked for the MDA Office of Agriculture Development as a veterinary consultant where he was responsible for macroeconomic issues, department policy and legislative initiatives. Prior to that he served the MDA Animal Industry Division as pseudorabies eradication program coordinator and official pseudorabies epidemiologist.

Granger also worked as a veterinary medical officer with USDA, APHIS, VS in southern Ohio for two years, and owned and managed a mixed animal veterinary practice for nine years. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Michigan State University in 1979.

HHS creates food security research program

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson recently announced \$5 million in funding to support a new research program to develop technologies and strategies to prevent and minimize potential threats to the safety and security of the nation's food supply.

The announcement came as HHS' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a new report highlighting the department's progress toward enhancing the nation's food security — including a more-than-five-fold increase in the number of imported food examinations.

"Americans need to feel secure that the food they eat is safe and healthy," Secretary Thompson said. "We are investing unprecedented time, energy and resources to make sure the food that goes from our nation's ports and food facilities to our families' dinner tables is safe.

The new report, submitted by FDA Commissioner Mark D. McClellan to Secretary Thompson, highlights the department's progress

in making the food supply safer and more secure, in 10 critical focus areas.

For example, for fiscal year 2003, FDA has quintupled the number of imported food examinations it conducted in fiscal year 2001 — reaching 62,000 inspections so far this year, compared with 12,000 in all of fiscal year 2001. The increase exceeds the agency's goal.

The increased coverage reflects a steep increase in the number of ports of entry with FDA staffing from 40 to 90; FDA's intensive efforts during a period of heightened security alert earlier this year (Operation Liberty Shield); and enhanced collaboration with other government agencies to protect the food supply more efficiently.

This progress stems in large measure from the \$96 million increase in the agency's food-security budget in fiscal years 2002 and 2003. Those additional resources enabled FDA to hire 655 new field personnel that work almost exclusively on food security and food

safety. President Bush's fiscal year 2004 budget requests another \$116.3 million to further protect the nation's food supply.

"We will continue to maximize our efforts to give Americans the most protection possible from deliberate or accidental food risks," McClellan said. "That includes not only using the best ideas that science has to offer, but seeking out still better ideas and methods."

The \$5 million in new research funding is being made available from the post-9/11 Emergency Response Fund. The White House Office of Management and Budget is allocating these funds to the FDA, which will use them for food security research, including efforts to develop new prevention and mitigation technologies and to improve the ability to assess foods for contamination with chemical, biological and radiological agents.

The full progress report is available at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/foodsecurity/>.

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National Pork Board names new members, officers

Craig Christensen of Ogden, Iowa, who operates a family-owned hog, corn and soybean farm, was elected president of the 15-member National Pork Board at the board's summer meeting June 30-July 2. Dave Culbertson of Geneseo, Ill., was elected vice president.

The board also welcomed three new members. Dennis Michael, of Yankton, S.D., Diane Bettin of Truman, Minn., and Wayne Peugh of Edelstein, Ill., were nominated by producers at the annual Pork Industry Forum in March and then approved by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture earlier this summer. Board member Mark Reding of Howardstown, Ky., was reappointed to a new three-year term, as were Christensen and Culbertson.

FSIS announces new food safety and security guidelines

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced the availability of new food safety and security guidance for transporters and distributors of meat, poultry and egg products as part of its continuing effort to help protect America's food supply from intentional and unintentional contamination. In May 2002,

FSIS issued security guidelines for food processors.

FSIS Safety and Security Guidelines for the Transportation and Distribution of Meat, Poultry and Egg Products is designed to help facilities and shippers that handle meat, poultry and egg products strengthen their food safety and security plans. The guidelines provide recommendations to ensure the security of food products through all phases of distribution.

The guidelines address points in the transportation and distribution process where potential contaminants could be introduced, including loading and unloading, and in-transit storage.

The guidelines are available on the Internet at www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/topics/biosecurity.htm.

U.S. food system offers effective route for bioterrorists, says public health official

Saying the U.S. is just "inches" away from a perpetrated foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, Dr. Michael Osterholm believes the potential for a catastrophic event affecting the animal agriculture industry is huge.

Speaking to publishers, editors and writers attending the Agricultural Publications Summit in Cleveland, Ohio, July 28, Osterholm said the U.S. food system offers a potentially effective and wide-ranging route for bioterrorists to cause harm by contaminating animals or animal products with microbial or toxic agents.

Simply issuing threats of such actions could also cause the type of fear and panic across the nation that would-be terrorists seek, said Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

"Do not be surprised when it happens, because it will happen," said Osterholm, an advisor to the secretaries of the Departments of Health and Human Services and

Homeland Security. He underscored the need for federal leadership and coordinated response to future incidents, saying future efforts should be coordinated both vertically and horizontally from production through consumption.

Osterholm said the recent response to contain an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease among poultry in the western U.S. demonstrated a shortage of trained personnel. Over 1,000 state and federal veterinarians and animal health officials were sent to California and other western states to battle the outbreak, compromising preparedness and response plans throughout the country in the event of another large-scale disease outbreak, he said.

"The food system of today and tomorrow provides for some of the most significant challenges of any industry in this country," said Osterholm. "Food biosecurity requires we fundamentally rethink how we do business."

Making the case for irradiation

A long-time advocate for irradiation of meat and meat products, Dr. Michael Osterholm told attendees at the Agricultural Publications Summit, "One day we will accept irradiation, but how many lives will have been lost between now and then?"

"The industry-wide use of irradiation for red meat, ready-to-eat meat products, poultry and selected produce will dramatically reduce the incidence of serious foodborne disease in this country," said Osterholm. "It will do for food what heat pasteurization did for milk."

Osterholm is puzzled by the reluctance of many to embrace the technology, which he points out has been recommended by every major public health and medical organization in the world. Advocating irradiation as a completely safe process, he said irradiation is the most studied, thoroughly researched food safety technology in history.

Unfortunately, he said, misinformation about irradiation by organizations with agendas not related to public health often goes unchallenged.

NIAA members in the news

American Farm Bureau executive Joseph Miller to join NAMP as executive vice president



Joseph Miller, an executive with American Farm Bureau Federation, has been selected as the new executive vice president of the North American Meat

Processors Association (NAMP), effective July 21st.

As senior director of regulatory relations at AFBF, Miller has been involved in state and congressional legislative relations, livestock and meat product issues, and has also had significant experience in trade policy. He has worked with legislators on issues such as food safety, animal health and industry structure, and has been involved with regulatory issues such as antibiotic resistance and biosecurity.

He holds a B.S. in Animal Science from Brigham Young University, an M.S. in International Agricultural Development and Agricultural Economics from the University of California at Davis, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

"Joe Miller's background and experience in a variety of areas in the field of agriculture and ag-related organizations, along with his advisory and managerial skills, uniquely qualify him to become NAMP's new executive vice president," said NAMP President David Kirsch. "We're happy to have him on board."

Miller is a member of the board of directors of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture

As executive vice president, Miller will direct all activities of NAMP and ensure that the goals and objectives of the Association are met. He will work directly under the guidance of the Association's board of directors.

Iowa's John Korslund accepts USDA position in Riverdale

Dr. John Korslund, recently elected to the NIAA board of directors representing the Iowa Pork Producers Association, has accepted a position as National Swine Programs Liaison with USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) in Riverdale, Md.

Korslund will interface between VS' Eradication and Surveillance Team and the pork industry, including the swine veterinary profession.

A long-time pork producer and swine practitioner in Eagle Grove, Iowa, Korslund will step down from his position on the NIAA board of directors.

Montserrat Torremorell awarded for scientific contributions



PIC USA's Dr. Montserrat Torremorell has been selected to receive the 2003 Allen D. Leman Science in Practice Award.

Torremorell's interest in swine production medicine first developed in her hometown in Spain. She earned her veterinary degree in 1994 at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and five years later she was awarded her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her Ph.D. work included research on transmission of microorganisms such as aerosol transmission of PRRS and pathogenic strain epidemiology for *S. suis* and *H. parasuis*.

In 1999, Torremorell joined PIC as a research veterinarian in Health Assurance. She was promoted to project leader for the PRRS elimination effort at PIC and the company has moved from a 12% PRRS positive status to being 100% PRRS negative. She became Director of Health Assurance in 2001 and has recently joined the management team as Vice President

of Health Assurance.

Her current areas of interest are the control and eradication of swine disease in modern swine production systems with special interest in epidemiology, transmission and pathogenesis of economically significant pathogens and food borne pathogens. The focus of her work has been on applied research directed to understanding clinical disease presentation with the aim to solve producer problems.

Dr. Torremorell has written over 70 publications for refereed journals, conference proceedings and abstracts. She has received numerous professional awards and is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota.

Bob Hillman tapped to head Texas livestock health agency



Returning home to his native state, Dr. Bob Hillman has accepted the position of state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission

(TAHC), the state's regulatory agency responsible for livestock and poultry health.

A native of Cameron, Texas, Hillman graduated from Texas A&M University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1971. He worked as a USDA field veterinarian before moving to private practice, first in Vernon, Texas, then as a practice partner in Burley, Idaho. In 1981, Hillman joined the Idaho Department of Agriculture as chief of the Bureau of Animal Health. Since 1990, he has served as the state veterinarian and administrator of the Division of Animal Industries in Idaho.

In 2001, Hillman served as president of the U.S. Animal Health Association. He has also served as chairman of the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee, the body addressing brucellosis-

infected bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area, and was one of the original eight U.S. representatives on the Binational Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Committee, which negotiates health standards for importing Mexican cattle to the U.S. border.

Tom Hagerty receives AVMA Public Service Award



Minnesota's Dr. Thomas J. Hagerty is the recipient of the 2003 American Veterinary Medical Association's Public Service Award, given in

recognition of outstanding contributions to public health and regulatory veterinary medicine.

As a practicing veterinarian in St. Michael, Minn., for 15 years, Hagerty focused on food animal medicine and dairy herd health programs. When he was named executive director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and state veterinarian in 1985, Hagerty's emphasis turned toward disease control and eradication programs. During his tenure at the Board in which he supervised a staff of eight veterinarians and 25 laboratory and support personnel, the state was successful in efforts to eradicate brucellosis and pseudorabies.

Now retired from that position, Hagerty continues his service to the veterinary profession as chair and spokesperson of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's Antibiotic Resistance Task Force. He served as president of the United States Animal Health Association in 1993 and is a former member of the Livestock Conservation Institute board of directors. He is also a strong supporter of the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine, where he graduated in 1959.

Hagerty represents the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association in National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) programs and activities.

NIAA welcomes the following as new members!!

National Associations & Commercial Organizations:

American Quarter Horse Association
Contact: Mr. Ward Stutz
P.O. Box 200
Amarillo, TX 79168

Optibrand Ltd., LLC
Contact: Dr. Bruce Golden
1 Old Town Square
Suite 700
Fort Collins, CO 80524

For information about membership in NIAA, contact Michelle Thomas at (270) 782-9798, Ext. 105 or mthomas@animalagriculture.org.

"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.

Renewing members!!

(during the past quarter)

National Associations & Commercial Organizations:

American Sheep Industry Association
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
Cargill Pork
Holstein Association USA
Maxwell Foods, Inc.
(Formerly Goldsboro Farms)
National Pork Board

State-level Associations & Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies:

Illinois Pork Council
Iowa Department of Agriculture
Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine
Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
North Dakota State Board of Animal Health
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Purdue University Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
South Dakota Animal Industry Board
South Dakota State University Animal Disease Research & Diagnostic Laboratory
University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Individual Members (Self-employed):

Dr. Claude Barton
Dr. Temple Grandin

Affiliate Membership (Non-voting):

Brakke Consulting, Inc.
Dr. Jeff Melander
National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

For a complete NIAA membership listing, visit our website at www.animalagriculture.org

Eisenhower Fellowship in animal agriculture announced

The prestigious Eisenhower fellowship program has announced a competition for a U.S. farmer to travel as an Eisenhower Fellow to Europe for 4-8 weeks. The Fellowship will explore the topic of "Food Safety in Animal Agriculture: Disease Control".

Eisenhower Fellowships will select one individual to travel in 2004 to discuss this topic with European Union officials, small and commercial farmers, national government representatives, and university researchers. The successful candidate will be a farmer with demonstrated leadership experience, excellent networking avenues, and a long future ahead of him or her in agriculture. The Fellowship covers all international and domestic travel, hotel accommodations and meals for Fellow and spouse.

Eisenhower Fellowships USA Program is a program for mid-career professionals who have an established leadership track but who have not yet attained the peak of their careers (targeted age range is 35-45). Fellows are chosen to travel abroad for four to eight weeks, with an individually-tailored itinerary of meetings with counterparts and key professionals in positions of leadership in another country. The program invites and encourages spouse participation in the program.

Request application information from N. Chawla, Eisenhower Fellowships, 256 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; Phone 215.546.1738; nchawla@eisenhowerfellowships.org. Application deadline is Sept. 15, 2003.

Job Announcement Director of Communications

Trade organization serving animal agriculture industry nationwide seeks qualified individual to serve as editor of its quarterly publications and lead the association's long-range communications strategy.

Applicants should have a degree in journalism, public relations or other communications-related field of study, with at least 3-5 years professional experience in agricultural journalism preferred.

The successful candidate will possess excellent writing talents and oral communications skills. Media relations and speech writing skills a plus. Proficient desktop publishing skills also a plus, as well as experience with website operations. Must be self-sufficient in editing own work.

Compensation commensurate with education and experience. Very nice benefits package. Send resume with cover letter and writing samples to:

National Institute for Animal Agriculture
Attn: Chief Executive Officer
1910 Lyda Avenue
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104-5809

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Bowling Green, KY 42104

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