

# animal agriculture

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

fall 2004

## Agriculture as a target Congressional Research Service issues report on agroterrorism vulnerabilities in the U.S.

“The potential of terrorist attacks against agricultural targets (agroterrorism) is increasingly recognized as a national security threat” in the United States. That was the summation of an exhaustive report prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) for members of Congress, concluded in August.

Attacks against agriculture are not new, and have been conducted or considered by both nation-states and substate organizations throughout history, the report states. At least nine countries had



documented agricultural bioweapons programs during some part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although only a few can be considered terrorist in nature. Four other countries are believed to have or have had agricultural bioweapons programs. However, congressional researchers conclude that biological weapons have been used rarely against crops or livestock, remaining mostly a theoretical consideration up until the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The results of an agroterrorist attack may include major economic crises in the agricultural and food industries, loss of confidence in government and possible human casualties. Humans could be at risk in terms of food safety or public health, especially if the chosen disease is transmissible to humans. Public opinion may be particularly sensitive to a deliberate outbreak of disease affecting the food supply. Public confidence in government could be eroded if authorities appear unable to prevent such an attack or to protect the population's food supply.

### Economic Consequences

Economic losses from an agroterrorist incident could be large and widespread, congressional researchers concluded.

- First, the losses would include the value of lost production, the

### Agroterrorism –

*the deliberate introduction of an animal or plant disease with the goal of generating fear, causing economic losses, and/or undermining stability.*

cost of destroying diseased or potentially diseased products and the cost of containment (vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, pesticides and veterinary services).

- Second, export markets would be lost as importing countries place restrictions on U.S. products to prevent possibilities of the disease spreading.

- Third, multiplier effects would ripple through the economy due to decreased sales by agriculturally dependent businesses (farm input suppliers, food manufacturing, transportation, retail grocery and food service) and tourism.

- Fourth, the government could bear significant costs, including eradication and containment costs, and compensation to producers for destroyed animals.

Depending on the erosion of consumer confidence and export sales, market prices of the affected commodities may drop. This would affect producers, whose herds or

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

### inside this issue

Page 3	Mission Accomplished: All 50 states achieve PRV Stage V status
Page 4	Bush taps Johanns for Ag Secretary
Page 5	NAIS Opinion Survey
Pages 6-7	ID implementation continues: progress visible
Pages 8-10	News briefs
Page 11	New & renewing members
Page 12	Plans underway for 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting

## Agriculture as a target

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

crops were not directly infected, making the event national in scale even if the disease itself were contained to a small region.

Congressional researchers

*Congressional researchers noted that agriculture and food production generally have received less attention in counter-terrorism and homeland security efforts.*

noted that agriculture and food production generally have received less attention in counter-terrorism and homeland security efforts. But they point out that more recently agriculture has garnered more attention in the expanding field of terrorism studies. Laboratory and response systems are being upgraded to address the reality of agroterrorism. Congress has held hearings on agroterrorism and enacted laws and appropriations with agroterrorism-related provisions. The executive branch has responded by implementing the new laws, issuing several presidential directives, and creating liaison and coordination efforts.

The CRS report's findings mirror previous reports on the subject of agroterrorism. The National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council concluded: "Bioterrorism is now a reality...Agriculture is indeed vulnerable to bioterrorism." The Gilmore Commission concluded that the "U.S. agricultural sector remains acutely vulnerable to attack." In February 2003, the

## Agriculture's vulnerabilities

The general susceptibility of the agriculture and food industry to bioterrorism is difficult to address in a systematic way due to the highly dispersed, yet concentrated nature of the industry and the inherent biology of growing plants and raising animals. Agriculture has several characteristics that pose unique problems for managing the threat:

- Agricultural production is geographically dispersed in unsecured environments (e.g. open fields and pastures throughout the countryside). While some livestock are housed in secure facilities, agriculture in general requires large expanses of land that are difficult to secure from intruders.
- Livestock are frequently concentrated in confined locations (e.g. feedlots with thousands of cattle in open-air pens, farms with tens of thousands of pigs, or barns with hundreds of thousands of poultry). Concentration in slaughter, processing and distribution also makes large-scale contamination more likely.
- Live animals, grain and

processed food products are routinely transported and commingled in the production and processing system. These factors circumvent natural barriers that could slow pathogenic dissemination.

- The presence (or rumor) of certain pests and diseases in a country can quickly stop all exports of a commodity, and can take months or years to resume.
- The past success of keeping many diseases out of the U.S. means that many veterinarians and scientists lack direct experience with foreign diseases. This may delay recognition of symptoms in case of an outbreak.
- The number of lethal and contagious biological agents is greater for plants and animals than for humans. Most of these diseases are environmentally resilient, endemic in foreign countries and not harmful to humans – making it easier for terrorists to acquire, handle and deploy the pathogens. ■

Source: Congressional Research Service - *Agroterrorism: Threats and Preparedness*

White House Office of Homeland Security identified *Agriculture and Food* as one of 11 critical infrastructures in the U.S. that terrorists may target.

The 45-page CRS report addresses the use of biological weapons against agriculture, rather than the threat of terrorists using agricultural inputs for other purposes. It also focuses more on agricultural production than food processing and distribution. The report was prepared to aid members of Congress in analyzing a number of legislative initiatives and appropriations requests under consideration in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. ■

**animal agriculture**  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

**Glenn N. Slack**

President & Chief Executive Officer

**Michele Vise-Brown**

Director of Member Relations

**Benjamin Richey**

Director of Communications

**Peggy Logsdon**

Principal Assistant

**Pamela Meador**

Financial Administrator

**Julie Jones**

Staff Assistant

1910 Lyda Avenue • Bowling Green, KY 42104  
Phone: (270) 782-9798 • Fax: (270) 782-0188  
Email: [NIAA@animalagriculture.org](mailto:NIAA@animalagriculture.org)  
Web address: [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org)

## Mission Accomplished: All 50 states achieve PRV Stage V status

Fifteen years ago, swine health officials decided that the swine industry needed a coordinated effort to rid the U.S. of pseudorabies virus (PRV). Headed by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and driven by industry, a voluntary eradication was launched to combat this highly contagious disease.

At a recent meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Committee on Pseudorabies, the National Pseudorabies Control Board, announced that it had granted Stage V (Free) status to Florida, Pennsylvania and Texas, the only states that had not achieved the free status.

Thus, all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, are now free of pseudorabies in commercial swine for the first time in history. The committee paused for a round of applause to recognize the accomplishment of such a task.

"This signals a goal accomplished," says Jim Leafstedt, who chaired the NIAA pseudorabies eradication task force. "The collaborative effort between NIAA, USAHA and pork producers has set a new standard for disease eradication."

Leafstedt adds that the PRV eradication program can serve as a model for animal agriculture, and future efforts between state, federal and industry cooperation. "Working together allowed for eradication to happen much more quickly," he says. "NIAA's first steps to providing a forum for collaboration on this sets an example for how we can accomplish such things."

The industry has made steady progress through the years on PRV eradication efforts. In 1992, there were nearly 8,000 pseudorabies-infected swine herds in the United States and as of Dec. 29, 1998, there were 1,110 infected herds left, consisting of 1.9 million swine.

Pseudorabies was at one time costing the swine industry an estimated \$30 million.

With the declaration of Stage V status for Iowa earlier this year, it was clear that states with a more prevalent feral swine population were left as the central focus. The PRV Control Board, which provides oversight on the eradication program, requires states to address feral and transitional swine in their reports, which are submitted for review according to a guide provided by the board. States can either provide a certification of no feral swine, or a management plan for maintaining separation from feral and transitional swine.

The PRV Control Board will remain intact moving ahead, as surveillance programs will continue. In addition, the board will continue addressing separation of commercial, transitional and feral swine through the state management plans.

"Plenty of work still remains,"



Jim Leafstedt

says Dr. John Korslund, a swine veterinarian with USDA's Veterinary Services. "We cannot ease standards, as PRV still remains in feral populations."

Korslund added that eradicating pseudorabies from feral swine remains a persistent and complex challenge, thus the importance of maintaining separation and surveillance are a vital part of having the U.S. recognized as PRV-free from an international standpoint.

USAHA Committee Chair Dr. Paul Anderson of St. Paul, Minn., said that if the country remains free of pseudorabies infection in commercial swine, the target date for declaring the United States officially free of this disease is October 2006. He also noted that a remaining challenge is to make sure feral swine, which are infected with both pseudorabies and swine brucellosis, do not come into contact with commercial swine herds. ■

### Needle Summit II



Dr. Bill Hollis, a practitioner in Carthage, Ill., discusses the perils of needles and other hazards in pork products during Needle Summit II in Kansas City, Mo., on Dec. 2. NIAA facilitated the summit on behalf of the National Pork Board, which sponsored the meeting.

## Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns tapped for Ag Secretary

President Bush has announced the nomination of Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns to serve as the next Secretary of Agriculture. Johanns will succeed Ann Veneman in the position for the President's second term.



"He's been a leader on drought relief in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest," said President Bush. "He's a strong proponent of alternative energy

sources, such as ethanol and biodiesel. He's traveled the world to promote American farm exports."

Johanns is a native Iowan, growing up on a dairy farm. He graduated from Osage (Iowa) Community High School, St. Mary's College in

Winona, Minnesota, and earned his law degree from Creighton University in Omaha. Johanns served as mayor of Lincoln, Neb.,

prior to being elected governor of the state in 1999.

"I congratulate Governor Johanns on being named today by the President to serve as the 28th U.S. Secretary of Agriculture," said outgoing Secretary Veneman. "He is a good friend whom I've worked with closely over the years to advance agriculture policy and trade opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers."

Johanns' appointment is pending Senate approval. ■

## NIAA chief praises Veneman's tenure at USDA

"The announcement of Ann Veneman's departure from the post of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) brings reflection on her leadership during the past four years and a realization of the many accomplishments achieved during her tenure," said Glenn Slack, president and chief executive officer of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

Slack cited some of Veneman's accomplishments that have been important to animal agriculture, which include:

- Helping to reverse a White House plan for the complete transfer of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service from USDA to the new Department of Homeland Security; and fostering a strong working relationship with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, resulting in a greater understanding of agroterrorism threats and protecting the food supply.
- Safeguards put in place against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and other emerging and foreign animal disease threats, as well as her agency's overall handling of the first positive diagnosis of BSE in

the United States.

- Her call for immediate implementation of a National System for Animal Identification (NAIS) to provide a standardized, national numbering system to assist animal health officials with tracing diseased animals back to their point of origin. Her call was backed up with substantial funding commitments to make it happen, and a state-federal-industry approach to develop the systems' framework was embraced by USDA.

- Passage of the Animal Health Protection Act in 2002, which consolidates and revises statutes relating the USDA's authority to deal with animal health issues.

- Unprecedented commitment to building a world-class animal health infrastructure in the United States (animal disease surveillance, research and diagnostics), hallmarked by several hundred million dollars for construction of the new National Centers for Animal Health in Ames, Iowa.

Slack points out that the threats of accidental – or unintentional – incursions of emerging and foreign animal diseases, coupled with a new era of intentional threats by would-be terrorists

seeking to harm U.S. agricultural production and the food supply, have never been greater than during the Veneman era at USDA.

"We are thankful for the progress Secretary Veneman and her associates have made for agriculture in safeguarding animal health and food safety," Slack said. "Ultimately, our industry is better prepared for disease prevention and response because of that."

Speaking to industry professionals at NIAA's March 2002 annual meeting, some six months after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Veneman commended the organization for bringing different parties to the table to talk about how to improve food and agricultural systems. "That's the type of cooperation we need throughout all of our programs," she said. "It's (cooperation) important to address agroterrorism and other industry issues and look to the future of animal agriculture."

"We can only hope that her successor will bring a similar commitment of safeguarding animal agriculture in order to maintain the superiority of U.S. agriculture and food products," Slack said. ■

## NIAA OPINION SURVEY: Confidentiality and data housing give way to funding, producer participation as NAIS' major concerns

*Who's going to pay? How much is it going to cost me?* Common questions frequently pondered by producers and other stakeholders when contemplating the new National Animal Identification System (NAIS) being implemented by USDA and state animal health agencies.

According to a recent survey by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), 20.5 percent of respondents indicated funding as the their biggest concern for implementation of NAIS. Producer participation followed, chosen the biggest concern by 16.7 percent of respondents, trailed by data confidentiality with 15.2 percent, and data collection and housing with 10.6 percent.

Another aspect of the program that has been a contentious issue for many is whether the program will be voluntary or mandatory. However, only 4.6 percent of respondents listed this as their biggest concern.

"The implementation of NAIS is clearly an important issue for multiple sectors of animal agriculture," said NIAA Chairman of the Board Dr. Rick Sibbel. "NIAA continues to provide an important role regarding industry input. This survey gives us a better pulse on our membership's sentiments, ultimately allowing NIAA to address ID issues across the country and continue building consensus for NAIS."

The 25-question opinion survey was mailed electronically to 502 individuals nationally with NIAA members comprising the pool. One hundred thirty-two (132) responses were received for a 26.3 percent response rate. The survey was conducted Oct. 14-19.

When asked specifically about support for a voluntary or a manda-



NIAA Chairman of the Board Dr. Rick Sibbel shares results of the NAIS Opinion Survey with other industry organizations attending the U.S. Animal Health Association annual meeting in October.

tory program, only 10 percent of respondents (9.9%) said they support a voluntary program. In contrast, 79 percent of respondents feel the program should either be mandatory now or upon a set date in the future. (Twenty-five percent said they support a mandatory program. The most popular choice, made by 53.8 percent of respondents, was "voluntary during developmental stages, but with a decided date for making the program mandatory.")

Other findings include:

- Consensus on who holds the database has not been achieved: 27.3 percent of respondents support a centralized database operated by USDA; 13.6 percent support a centralized database that is privatized; 28.0 percent support a decentralized database system operated by state animal health agencies; and 15.9 percent support a decentralized database system that is privatized.

- More than three-fourths of respondents feel that more federal dollars are needed for FY'05 than the \$33 million request by USDA.
- Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents do not feel that necessary information and education is being delivered to stakeholders in a timely fashion to help further NAIS.
- Three-fourths of respondents feel somewhat or very prepared to participate in NAIS; only six percent feel unprepared.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) agree that concerns have been heard and are being or will be addressed. Twenty-five percent (25%) disagree.
- Over half of respondents feel progress is moving at an average rate or better, while one-third of respondents feel the rate of progress is below average or poor.

Complete survey results can be viewed at [www.animalagriculture.org/survey/NAIS.htm](http://www.animalagriculture.org/survey/NAIS.htm). ■

## ID implementation continues; progress visible

The U.S. Department of Agriculture continues to progress with the implementation of a national animal identification system. Recent months have brought forth new progress for the program.

### Additional \$1.5 million allocated to states for NAIS

USDA has announced that an additional \$1.5 million is available for national animal identification system (NAIS) cooperative agreements with states.

"These funds have been set aside to support premises registration activities," said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. "A national animal identification system will help locate premises where animals are born, managed, marketed or exhibited. States that applied for funding in July and were not selected at that time are now eligible for a portion of the \$1.5 million if they meet specified requirements."

The \$11.64 million set aside earlier this year for cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments was dispersed among 29 agreements. A total of 40 applications were received by USDA for that funding. Now, the additional \$1.5 million provides those 11 applicants with an opportunity to resubmit plans for a minimum of \$100,000. The revised applications were due by Dec. 1 and had to address any feedback received during the evaluation of their first-round application.

USDA states that the NAIS continues to be a priority. The 2005 federal budget includes \$33 million to continue supporting its implementation and a portion of these funds will be used for additional cooperative agreements with states and tribes. They will continue to register premises and also phase in animal identification systems at a state or regional level.

States identified in this second

funding effort include: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware and Maryland, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington state.

### USAHA ID Committee offers two resolutions

The U.S. Animal Health Association has long played an important part in the development of animal identification, and this year proved no different. USAHA's Committee on Livestock Identification sent forth two resolutions out of the late-October meeting in Greensboro, N.C. The first resolution urges for industry, state and federal cooperation on the development of an appropriate animal traceability database. The second resolution recommends that all states begin use of electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. The full resolutions are

## NAIS input from industry still viable through new structure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) subcommittee under the Secretary's Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (SACFAPD) to provide stakeholder review and input.

The subcommittee has been charged with providing recommendations to the SACFAPD for consideration on the following matters related to NAIS:

- The scope, thoroughness and appropriateness of NAIS development and implementation;
- Specific input on how the system should be implemented within various segments of the industry; and

- The development of Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) for NAIS, which will provide guidance for stakeholders and will ensure common standards that will enable effective state, federal and industry cooperation.

The subcommittee has 13 members and is led by three "tri-chairs," including John Adams of the National Milk Producers Federation and Jim Neiwold, a swine producer from Illinois, both members of the SACFAPD. The other tri-chair is Dr. Robert Fourdraine, CEO of the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium and vice-chair of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee.

Most of the members of the subcommittee served on the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) Steering Committee, from which NAIS is largely based.

The subcommittee will obtain input from different segments of industry and may establish working groups as needed. The USAIP Species/Segments Working Groups and three issued-based working groups on communications, information technology and standards will now provide input to the subcommittee. In addition, the subcommittee will draw on expertise from NIAA and the U.S. Animal Health Association, two organizations that have helped pioneer the establishment of a national system for animal identification. ■

as follows:

### **USAHA Resolution #2**

"In order to expedite the development of a data management system to meet all stakeholders' needs and expectations, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Subcommittee of the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases to request the United States Department of Agriculture to facilitate the cooperative development of an appropriate animal traceability database system through the joint leadership of the species and segment working groups, issue-based working groups, and state animal health officials."

### **USAHA Resolution #28**

"The United States Animal Health Association recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services should commit to bring all 50 states onto electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) and provide the necessary support within the next 18-24 months. In addition, ICVI should be referenced through the Code of Federal Regulations."

## **Alternative numbering systems rule announced**

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) says it is going to recognize additional numbering systems for the identification of animals. The systems will apply to interstate commerce and cooperative disease control and eradication programs for animals. Additionally, APHIS will authorize the use of a national numbering system to identify premises where animals are managed or held. The new numbering systems come as another step in the establishment NAIS, which is being implemented on a voluntary basis.

The move points NAIS in a direc-

tion that would create a standardized numbering system, which is widely supported by industry and government. Currently, many producers use separate identification numbers or methods for official animal health programs, interstate commerce purposes and industry programs such as breed registries. An animal or group of animals would be identified with the same official number under multiple programs, instead of being identified with a different number under each program. The data associated with each program could still be maintained separately, however.

Accordingly, APHIS is amending the regulations to recognize for official use the 15-character animal identification number, 13-character group/lot identification number and 7-character premises identification number. The new official animal numbering system will allow producers to transition into the use of a one-number, one-animal system if they wish to do so.

This interim rule does not change the requirements defining which animals must be officially identified, nor does it require that producers use the new numbering systems. The rule merely ensures

that the new numbering systems are recognized as official, allowing those who want to use such systems to do so.

The rule also provides an amendment to prohibit the removal of official identification devices, including those recognized as official on livestock imported from other countries.

This interim rule was published in the Nov. 8 *Federal Register*.

## **Legislation proposed for data confidentiality**

In a presentation to the U.S. Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Livestock Identification Committee in October, Dr. John Clifford announced that USDA has sent draft legislation to Capitol Hill addressing confidentiality of data involved with the National Animal ID System. The legislation would provide an amendment to the Animal Health Protection Act to fit the needs of NAIS. Disclosure of information will be highly limited, yet still allow for animal health officials to trace back disease in 48 hours, the goal of NAIS. Further details on the draft legislation have not been released. ■

## **NAIS resources now available**

Seeking more information on the National Animal Identification System? Resources are now available on NAIS. USDA has produced two booklets on NAIS, one which focuses on premises identification and the other is an overview of the system. The brochures can be found on the Internet at [www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/nais/nais.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/nais/nais.html).

Additionally, the Western Extension Marketing Committee has developed a series of fact sheets, with support from the Western Center for Risk



Management Education and the Livestock Marketing Information Center. The fact sheets are available on the Internet at [www.lmic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm](http://www.lmic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm).

## *news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs news briefs*

### **Bush re-elected**

President George W. Bush was elected to a second term during the November election. Shortly after the election, Bush, 58, began what has turned into a major overhaul of his cabinet.

Among those stepping down are Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

### **Ag veteran on Capitol Hill unseated**

U.S. Representative Charles Stenholm, a Texas democrat and most senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, was defeated in his re-election bid by fellow Congressman Randy Neugebauer. The match-up was a result of redistricting in the state of Texas that placed Stenholm in a newly drawn, republican-favored district.

Stenholm has served as the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee since 1997 and was also a member of the House Armed Services Committee. Recognized as the most knowledgeable and influential leader on U.S. agricultural policy in the U.S. Congress, he has helped write five farm bills.

Stenholm is one of the few active farmers in the U.S. Congress.

### **Third BSE inconclusive is negative**

USDA's enhanced surveillance testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) continues, with the most recent inconclusive test being announced on Nov. 18. Confirmatory test results were announced on Nov. 23 that the test

was negative.

"The Nov. 18 sample is the first that has tested inconclusive under an APHIS protocol announced in August that calls for public reporting of screening results only after two reactive screens," said Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "NVSL used the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test, an internationally-recognized gold standard test for BSE, and received a negative result on Nov. 22. Because the Nov. 18 screening test results were reactive in both the first and second screens, NVSL scientists made the recommendation to run the IHC test a second time. On Nov. 23 they reported the second IHC test was negative. Negative results from both IHC tests make us confident that the animal in question is indeed negative for BSE."

The enhanced surveillance

began June 1 of this year, with APHIS planning to test upwards of 268,000 samples from a defined high-risk group of animals over the following 12 to 18 months. As of Dec. 12, the program has tested a total of 144,315 samples for BSE using the rapid diagnostic test. Only three samples have been found inconclusive since enhanced surveillance began, with no positive cases.

### **President signs omnibus spending bill**

President Bush signed into law on Dec. 8, H.R. 4818, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005. The spending package includes \$85 billion for the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies.

## **Funding delays completion of National Centers for Animal Health**

The completion of the National Centers for Animal Health will likely not meet its original timeline, as Congress did not allocate enough dollars in the 2005 budget. The project was scheduled to be finished in 2007.

The total cost of the facility is \$460.77 million. The President's 2005 budget contained the \$178 million needed to complete the facility. However, the final appropriation was \$122 million for FY 2005.

The National Centers for Animal Health has been designated as a facility that will enhance USDA's ability to support animal health and food safety for the U.S. The new construction has been scheduled in four phases, which include laboratories and large-animal containment facilities. Phase

one, a laboratory, is currently operational at the Ames complex; with phase two, a high containment animal facility, scheduled to be done in 2006; and phase three, a large laboratory complex, following thereafter. Phase four is a low containment animal facility. Full funding must be in place before construction can begin in this final phase.

Due to rising construction costs, creative solutions may be necessary to ensure that all needs for laboratory and animal space are met. Still, the completed facilities have generated excitement among the scientists at NCAH and the phase one laboratory facility has already enhanced USDA's ability to meet the nation's need for diagnosis of animal disease. ■

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was funded at \$819 million, a \$98 million increase over fiscal year 2004, which includes \$33 million for the National Animal Identification System. The Food Safety and Inspection Service was funded at \$824 million, a \$44 million increase.

Agricultural research and extension programs were increased \$211 million. The Agricultural Research Service received \$1.299 billion and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service received \$1.171 billion.

### Supreme Court hears Beef Checkoff case

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Dec. 8 in an appeal of a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit that found the national Beef Promotion and Research Act in violation of the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court's decision will impact many other mandatory checkoff programs, such as pork and dairy, which have been engaged in litigation challenging program constitutionality.

A total of 113 state and national beef industry and general agriculture organizations filed friend-of-the-court briefs supporting the Beef Checkoff Program, as did attorneys general from 35 states and Puerto Rico and the chairmen of both the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Nebraska Cattlemen, Inc., leading a group of supportive producers intervening on behalf of the checkoff, is a defendant in the case along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

The challenge to the beef checkoff was raised by the Livestock Marketing Association

(LMA) and the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). The decision on the constitutionality of the Beef Checkoff Program is anticipated to come in the first half of 2005. The checkoff programs continue to operate through these proceedings.

### FDA issues food security recordkeeping rule

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued final regulations on the establishment and maintenance of records to protect the U.S. human food and animal feed supply in the event of credible threats of serious adverse health consequences or death to humans or animals. FDA also issued draft guidance to FDA staff and industry, which details the internal procedures the agency will follow before requesting access to records.

"These records will be crucial for FDA to deal effectively with food-related emergencies, such as deliberate contamination of food by terrorists," said Dr. Lester M. Crawford, Acting FDA Commissioner. "The ability to trace back will enable us to get to the source of contamination. The records also enable FDA to trace forward to remove adulterated food that poses a significant health threat in the food supply."

FDA has already issued three other final regulations under the Bioterrorism Act of 2002. They cover:

- Registration of foreign and domestic food facilities;
- Prior notice of food shipments imported or offered for import into the U.S.; and
- Administrative detention, so that food products that might pose a threat of serious adverse health consequences or death may be detained.

This fourth and final regulation implements section 306 of the Bioterrorism Act, which directs the Health and Human Services Secretary to issue regulations requiring persons who manufacture, process, pack, transport, distribute, receive, hold, or import food to establish and maintain records.

FDA will be holding seven public meetings in January and February to explain the requirements of the final rule to interested parties and answer questions.

### USDA, ATA release biosecurity guidelines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the release of voluntary security guidance for over-the-road transporters of agricultural and food commodities to bolster national security and safeguard public health. The guidance was developed in partnership with the Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference (AFTC) of the American Trucking Association (ATA).

The *Guide for Security Practices in Transporting Agricultural and Food Commodities* is designed to enhance security measures practiced by the nation's approximately 27,000 commercial transporters of agricultural and food-related products across the nation each year. Although issued by USDA, the recommendations are relevant to agricultural commodities and food products of all types, whether regulated by USDA or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"These guidelines are practical, flexible and proactive," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Jim Moseley.

Fletcher Hall, executive director of ATA's Agricultural and Food Conference, said the fact that the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

voluntary guidelines were a partnership between the private sector and government is significant.

The document is available on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity/aftcsecurguidfinal19.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity/aftcsecurguidfinal19.pdf). Additionally, the ATA/AFTC website offers information for acquiring the guide in print or on CD-Rom at [www.truckline.com/cc/conferences/atc](http://www.truckline.com/cc/conferences/atc).

### FSIS undersecretary named to Texas post

Dr. Elsa Murano, USDA's undersecretary for food safety has been named to the joint positions of vice chancellor and dean of agriculture and life sciences at Texas A&M University and director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, effective Jan. 3, 2005.

Prior to being appointed undersecretary for food safety by

President Bush in 2001, Murano was a professor in the department of animal science at Texas A&M. She joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1995 and was director of the University's Institute for Food Science and Engineering - Center for Food Safety from 1997 until being named to the USDA post.

"I congratulate Dr. Murano on her appointments to Texas A&M University," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "As the undersecretary for food safety, her experience and dedication to the scientific process have contributed greatly to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and those qualities will serve her well in her new responsibilities."

At USDA, her responsibilities include oversight and direction for the management of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, which has an annual budget of \$905 million and 10,000 employees.

### Bush, Martin discuss cattle trade in Canada

President Bush, speaking at a joint press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin on Nov. 30, said he has directed the Office of Management and Budget to expedite action on a USDA proposal to allow cattle imports from Canada. However, Bush acknowledged that the regulatory process must be followed.

The U.S. and dozens of other countries banned imports of beef and cattle from Canada in May 2003 after a cow in Alberta was found to be infected with mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE.

"I'm a rancher," Bush said. "I understand the impact it's had here, obviously." OMB action on the proposal is expected to take up to 90 days.

Bush and Martin were meeting in Ottawa to discuss a host of issues. ■

## USAHA elects 2004-05 officers

Dr. Rick Willer, state veterinarian with the Arizona Department of Agriculture, was elected president of the U.S. Animal Health Association during USAHA's annual meeting in October in Greensboro, N.C. The event was held in conjunction with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians annual meeting.

Serving with Willer are Dr. Bret Marsh, Indiana Board of Animal Health, president-elect; Dr. Lee Meyers, Georgia Department of Agriculture, first vice-president; James Leafstedt, pork producer, second vice-president; and Dr. Don Hoenig, Maine Department of Agriculture, third vice-president.

Dr. Donald Lein, Cornell

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, is the outgoing president.

During the meeting, Dr. Joan Arnoldi, who recently retired from her post as state veterinarian for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, was presented with the APHIS Animal Health Award by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator Ron DeHaven. Arnoldi is a former director of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory and former deputy administrator of USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services.

As president of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, Dr. David Thain, Nevada Department of Agriculture, presented the National Assembly Award to Dr. Steven England, state



Dr. Don Lein, a member of the NIAA board of directors, delivers his retiring address as USAHA president.

veterinarian with the New Mexico Livestock Board, for his outstanding contributions to U.S. animal health in the regulatory field. ■

## NIAA welcomes the following new members!!

### National Associations & Commercial Organizations:

#### WestfaliaSurge, Inc.

Mr. Matt Daley  
20903 West Gale Ave.  
Galesville, WI 54630

### Affiliate Membership (Non-voting):

#### Moly Manufacturing, Inc.

Mr. Jon D. Mollhagen  
P.O. Box 80  
Lorraine, KS 67459

## Renewing members

(during the past quarter)

### National Associations & Commercial Organizations:

Ketchum Manufacturing, Inc.  
Murphy-Brown, LLC  
National Band & Tag Company  
National Livestock Producers Association  
Temple Tag, Ltd.

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

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Illinois Milk Producers Association  
Kansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Michigan Farm Bureau Federation  
Michigan State Univ. Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health  
Minnesota Pork Board  
Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
South Carolina Pork Board  
Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

### Individual Members (Self-employed)

Dr. Angela Baysinger  
Mr. Jeff Galle  
Dr. Temple Grandin  
Mr. Robert Jameson  
Dr. Robert F. Kahrs  
Mr. Joel VanGilst  
Dr. Max Waldo

### Affiliate Membership (Non-voting)

American Dairy Goat Association  
Clemson University Department of Research Services  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Healdsburg Veterinary Hospital

## Members in the news

**Mark J. Engle, DVM, MS**, has been named director of health for **PIC North America**, based in Franklin, Ky. Previously, Engle was director of swine health programs for the **National Pork Board**. Engle serves as chair of the NIAA Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee.

**Dr. Paul Knepley** has been appointed director of the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services at the **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture**. Knepley will also serve as state veterinarian and executive director of the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission. He has served as a veterinarian in the department for 10 years.

**Dr. Steven Halstead** has been appointed state veterinarian for the **Michigan Department of Agriculture**. The state veterinarian serves as director of MDA's Animal Industry Division and as chief animal health official for the state.

**Dr. Willie Reed**, director of the **Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health**, joined other officials on Sept. 30 to dedicate a newly built, futuristic center. The 152,000 square foot facility is located on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. The center was funded through a special \$58 million appropriation from the state of Michigan.

**Jerry Torrison, DVM, PhD**, has joined the faculty at **University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine** as an associate clinical professor in veterinary population medicine. He will be providing diagnostic services in production animal medicine at the university's veterinary diagnostic laboratory. Previously, he was a practitioner/consultant with Swine Vet Center in St. Peter, Minn.

Congratulations to **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture** and **Texas Animal Health Commission** on achieving Stage V (free) status in pseudorabies for those states (See related story on Page 3).

For information about membership in NIAA, contact Michele Vise-Brown at (270) 782-9798, Ext. 105 or [mvisebrown@animalagriculture.org](mailto:mvisebrown@animalagriculture.org).

## Plans underway for 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting

The 2005 annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) will be held April 3-7 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minn.

This annual gathering of professionals engaged in animal agriculture will include producers, veterinarians, business executives, scientists, academicians, state and federal regulatory officials and other stakeholders in the animal food and fiber industry.

The opening general session will include keynote presentations by several pre-eminent agricultural leaders.

NIAA committees will present 15 information-packed seminars addressing the breadth of issues affecting animal agriculture today. Other groups that will meet in conjunction with the NIAA Annual Meeting include the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, National John's Working Group, National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering Committee and the National Animal

Identification System (NAIS) Subcommittee of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

A special feature at the 2005 meeting will be a one-day symposium, **Protecting the Global Food Supply: Growing Concerns for Emerging Zoonotic Diseases**. The symposium, on April 7, will take an in-depth look at the interaction of public health, wildlife and animal diseases.

NIAA's mission is to provide forums 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 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting can be obtained on the Internet at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org) or by calling 270-782-9798. ■

### 2004 NIAA Leaders Forum



The 2004-2005 NIAA Board of Directors took time for a photograph during their mid-year meeting in Kansas City in September.

Members of the Executive Committee (seated, l to r): Jim Fraley, Illinois Farm Bureau (Secretary); Scott Stuart, National Livestock Producers Association (Vice Chairman); Dr. Rick Sibbel, Schering-Plough Animal Health (Chairman of the Board); Jon Caspers, National Pork Producers Council (Treasurer); and Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California Department of Food and Agriculture (Member At-Large). Board Members (2<sup>nd</sup> row, l to r): Nancy Robinson, Livestock Marketing Association; Dr. Marvin Beeman, American Horse Council; Dr. Don Lein, Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; and Kevin Kirk, Michigan Department of Agriculture. Board Members (3<sup>rd</sup> row, l to r): Dr. Lawrence Heider, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; David Miller, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Tom Cook, National Renderers Association; Kevin Maher, GlobalVetLink, LLC; Jon Johnson, Texas Farm Bureau; and Dr. Will Hueston, University of Minnesota Center for Animal Health and Food Safety. Absent: Dr. Rafael Seneriz, Elanco Animal Health.

animal  
agriculture  
1910 Lyda Avenue • Bowling Green, KY 42104

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