

# animal agriculture

spring 2005

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

## A challenge for animal agriculture's future role

Attendees to the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) symposium, *Protecting the Global Food Supply: Growing Concerns for Emerging Zoonotic Diseases*, were left with a very key message: we must strengthen animal and human health together.

The symposium, held on April 7 in conjunction with the 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting, focused on the importance of animal agriculture's role in safeguarding international health, for domestic animals, wildlife and humans.

"There is a need for linkages to veterinarians, medical doctors—all health sectors," said Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for

Infectious Disease Research and Policy and associate director for the Department of Homeland Security's National Center for Food Protection and Defense at the University of Minnesota. "[Animal agriculture is] the traffic controller, at the interface for the future."

Osterholm's message has been reinforced by recent appointments, including Dr. Lonnie King, dean of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, as the director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Strategy and Innovation. Osterholm provided insight into key diseases that have high zoonotic – transmissible to humans – implications such as influenza. Additionally, he challenged leaders to take a more aggressive role in diseases that have great social and economic implications.

"[Animal agriculture] still has to fight the uphill battle, providing a road for the future," said Osterholm.

Other presentations throughout the day addressed key issues, such as the importance for international coordination, the increasing importance of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the need for more science-based standards worldwide, use of technologies for prevention and control of disease and the importance of communication throughout the world from technicians to the general public.



DR. MICHAEL OSTERHOLM



DR. KEVIN WALKER

"Unless we build walls around our border, we rely on the national services of other countries," said Dr. Kevin Walker, director of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Directorate at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). "It's in our best interest that we be strong."

The symposium, moderated by Dr. Will Hueston of the University of Minnesota, hosted a variety of speakers, including: Dr. Michael Perdue, CDC Animal Influenza Liaison to the World Health Organization; Dr. John Smith, chairman of the U.S. Animal Health Association Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species; Dave Schmidt,

International Food Information Council; Dr. Pratuang Sudsakorn, Animal Health and Technical Services for the CPF Group in Thailand; Dr. Jimmy Tickel, North Carolina Department of Agriculture; Dr. Alfonso Torres, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Brian Evans, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Mike Robach, Cargill, Inc.; Dr. Susan Harlander, BT Safety, LLC; and a panel of key leaders in Minnesota involved with a collaborative effort to protect the global food supply. These presentations, along with other proceedings from the NIAA Annual Meeting can be accessed on the Internet at [www.animalagriculture.org/Proceedings/2005AMProceedings.asp](http://www.animalagriculture.org/Proceedings/2005AMProceedings.asp). ■

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## Comments sought on NAIS "thinking paper"

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has unveiled a "thinking paper" and timeline on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and called on agriculture producers, leaders, and industry partners to provide feedback. Both documents are available on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NAIS Web site at [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais) and were published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

"The documents we're releasing offer a draft plan to move the public discussion forward on this important initiative," said Johanns. "We created these documents with guidance from the NAIS advisory committee and with a great deal of input from producers. We're proposing answers to some of the key questions about how we envision this system moving forward. Now, I'm eager to hear from farmers and ranchers so we can develop a final plan."

A comprehensive description of system standards will be determined over time through field trials, user experience and the federal rulemaking process. These documents lay out in more detail projected timelines and potential avenues to achieve sys-

tem milestones. For example, these documents propose requiring stakeholders to identify premises and animals according to NAIS standards by January 2008. Requiring full recording of defined animal movements is proposed by January 2009.

The *Federal Register* notice acknowledges the outstanding concerns of some stakeholders and frames questions for which USDA will be seeking answers as it moves forward with the NAIS. These questions pertain to funding for the system, confidentiality of data in the system and flexibility of the system, among other things.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before July 6, 2005. Send an original and three copies of postal or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. 050-15-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet, an easy link to the NAIS docket and comment form is available on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais).

Once USDA receives feedback on

the documents, it will follow the normal rulemaking process before any aspects of the NAIS become mandatory. The public will have the opportunity to submit additional comments on any proposed regulations.

### To comment...

Send an original and three copies of comments to Docket No. 050-15-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238, or log on to [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais).

USDA's tentative timeline focuses on five key points:

- July 2005: All states capable of premises registration;
- August 2005: Animal Identification Number (AIN) system operational;
- April 2007: Premises registration and animal identification "alerts";
- January 2008: Premises registration and animal identification required; and
- January 2009: Reporting of defined animal movements required; entire program mandatory. ■

## 2009 set as goal for mandatory ID

In giving a progress report on development of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary



UNDERSECRETARY HAWKS

Bill Hawks reassured the industry that mandatory participation would not be put in place until all confidentiality issues had been resolved, though the administration hopes to make this a reality by 2009.

Hawks addressed the members of the Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee for the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) at their annual meeting in April.

Regarding the confidentiality issue, which has been a concern for some in the industry, the Bush Administration has sent a bill to Congress that would exempt the data collected for NAIS from the Freedom of Information Act.

Hawks urged the industry to actively support this legislation.

## animal agriculture

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

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# OIE makes revisions to BSE standards

Discussions on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) have led to new changes made by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) at their 73rd Annual General Session on May 22-27. The 167-member countries approved updated changes to the BSE chapter in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The revisions come following a consideration of new scientific knowledge. New classifications for the BSE categories for member countries, and a new list of several animal products without risks for consumers are included in the changes.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns was very supportive of the moves made by OIE on BSE.



SEC. MIKE JOHANNS

"The United States and several other countries have advocated for guidelines that reflect science, the low risk associated with BSE, and the effectiveness of risk mitigation measures," said Johanns. "I applaud the OIE for developing guidelines that incorporate all such factors. The international standard for BSE is now based on the same information that has guided the United States' current practices and the proposed minimal risk rule."

National Institute for Animal Agriculture president and CEO Glenn Slack attended the meeting, held in Paris, France, as an observer.

"International standards for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) were revised here to officially recognize boneless beef from animals less than 30 months of age as a product of no-risk," said Slack. "The addition to the list of non-risk products endorses scientific conclusions that boneless beef can be traded without regard to a country's BSE status if appropriate preventive measures have been implemented."

Slack also noted that changes made to streamline the system for classifying countries according to relative risk for BSE will now provide focus on the steps countries take in BSE-risk reduction. "Changes made to streamline the system for classifying countries according to relative risk for BSE will now provide focus on the steps countries take in BSE-risk reduction."



GLENN SLACK

American Meat Institute Foundation president James H. Hodges stated that their organization was "gratified" at the continued refinement of the international standards for BSE.

"OIE's revised standard announced today affirms what we have believed and supported for a long time: that beef is safe for consumption even from nations with BSE so long as appropriate procedures are in place to remove tissues like the brain that can pose a risk if

an animal has BSE," he said.

Slack added that the OIE delegates have directed experts to study the significance of an animal's age to determine if its policy that beef muscle from animals over 30 months presents a higher risk is scientifically sound, making additional modernization of the BSE code a possibility in 2006.

"Safeguarding animal and human health should be the cornerstone of deliberations at the OIE General Conference and today's revisions to the BSE code uphold scientific principles on which this body was founded," said Slack. "It will be up to member countries to amend their regulations as necessary to reflect these changes in the standards."

The revisions can be found on the Internet at [www.oie.int/eng/press/en\\_050602.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_050602.htm). ■



JAMES HODGES

## ID/INFO EXPO 2005 registration now available

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture's ID/INFO EXPO 2005 is now accepting registration for the three-day event, to be held September 27-29. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel.

NIAA is offering discounts to members, as well as early registration discounts. A preliminary program and registration information will be sent to ID stakeholders. Single day registration will be offered as well.

Additionally, sponsors and exhibitors have the opportunity to be part of this unique conference



and trade show devoted to the advancement of a national animal identification system.

For more information on exhibiting, sponsorship and attendee registration, including hotel accommodations, log on to [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org) and click on the ID/INFO EXPO 2005 logo on the right side of the page. We look forward to seeing you there!

# NIAA hosts BSE experts to talk science

The debate on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is seemingly endless, particularly with the number of parties involved in litigation and political positioning regarding BSE and international trade. Still, the science of BSE is said to be the key factor in the decision-making process for industry leaders and government officials.

At its annual meeting in April, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) brought together two of the world's experts on BSE, Dr. Will Hueston of the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota and Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The evening session, sponsored by the Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis, gave attendees a candid discussion on the science of BSE.

"Although BSE has its origins over two decades ago, there has been significant advancement in our collective understanding of the measures necessary to effectively protect animal and public health which has been the foundation of our decision making," said Evans in his presentation.

The implementation of these measures has resulted in a substantive decrease in BSE at the global level. At the height of the outbreak in the United Kingdom, there were over 102 cases per day. In 2004, there were less than 900 cases reported worldwide, and, as of the end of April, the numbers for 2005 are less than 150. Of the approximately 189,000 cases reported since 1986, 5,219 have been outside of the United Kingdom with a total of four in North America.

Evans added that every country's experience with BSE is in fact different based on the route and magnitude of exposure, the scope and duration of the mitigating measures in place and the level of compliance achieved. Canada and the



*Drs. Brian Evans of Canada and Will Hueston of the U.S. addressed the scientific issues involved with BSE. The event took place in conjunction with the NIAA Annual Meeting.*

United States have worked cooperatively in instituting a suite of measures including comparable feed bans introduced in 1997 to prevent the amplification and spread of the disease.

Hueston spoke on the epidemiology of BSE, and the importance of the feed bans in minimizing risks. "Available evidence indicates that the incubation period of BSE is inversely proportional to exposure," he said. "This implies that with no feed controls, the level of BSE circulating in the feed increases and more cases are found more often and the cases are younger. With the feed ban, as in North America, the BSE agent in feed decreases, as do cases and the age of diagnosed cattle is higher (See fig. 1). Studies tell us that the larger the exposure, the shorter the incubation, while the smaller the exposure, the longer the incubation."

Hueston also discussed research on the distribution of the BSE agent in cattle tissues, noting that the

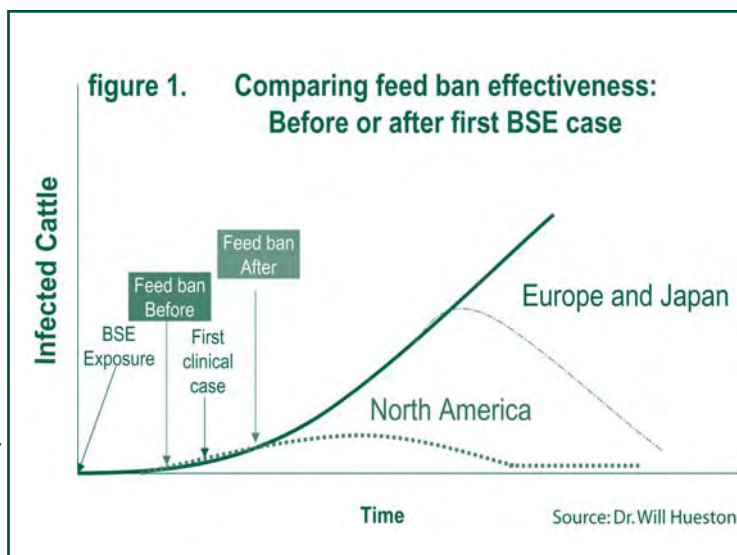
distal ileum, brain and spinal cord contain the highest levels of the agent. "Additionally, research has shown that no evidence exists to date that the BSE agent is found in cattle muscle."

Evans indicated that the North American BSE situation is unique, as consumer confidence has been maintained in the beef industry. He added that this is unprecedented relative to other countries, and has resulted in a different environment for policy establishment.

"The North American experience allows a focus on progressive, considered, science based, integrated measures," said Evans.

Though a number of trade barriers still exist for both the U.S. and Canada, Evans reported that progress is being made in market recovery as more countries move to adopt import policies which reflect the science based standards for safe trade developed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). While work remains to be done, Governments are coming to understand the impacts of unwarranted restrictions, which serve to penalize countries for making appropriate investments in surveillance and transparent reporting.

Presentations are on the Internet at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org). ■



## Two receive NIAA Meritorious Service Award

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) Meritorious Service Award was presented to James Leafstedt, Alcester, S.D. and Nancy Robinson, Kansas City, Mo., during the organization's annual recognition banquet, held in April.

NIAA traditionally honors an individual annually who has made extensive contributions and has given exemplary service to the animal agriculture industry and NIAA. Presented to both Leafstedt and Robinson, the award was given in recognition of "the leadership, dedication and many contributions you have given to NIAA and the animal agriculture industry," said Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento Calif., a recipient of the prestigious award in 2003.

Leafstedt, a fourth-generation pork producer, was recognized for his leadership in the National Pseudorabies Eradication Program, among other contributions he has



made to the swine industry and animal agriculture as a whole.

Nancy Robinson, vice president of government and industry affairs for the Livestock Marketing Association, was honored for her continued service to NIAA and the livestock industry. Robinson serves on the board of directors, representing her organization on key industry issues such as animal identification.

Other past recipients of the award are: Thomas W. Wenstrand, Hawkeye Steel Products, Inc., Houghton, Iowa (2001), Dr. Beth Lautner, National Pork Board, Des Moines, Iowa (2002), and Neil Hammerschmidt, Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, Madison, Wis. (2004). ■

## Mark Engle receives NIAA President's Award

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) 2005 President's Award was presented to Dr. Mark Engle, of PIC, Inc. in Franklin, Ky., during the organization's annual recognition banquet.

The President's Award, given to



the Outstanding Committee Chairperson of the Year, was bestowed upon Engle for his leadership skills and hours of service as chairman of the NIAA Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee, according to NIAA President and CEO Glenn Slack.

"Dr. Engle is direct and deliberate, fierce and focused; all qualities in a good leader," said Slack in presenting the award. "He has contributed greatly to the advancement of a national system for animal identification in the United States."

Past Recipients of the award are: Dr. Temple Grandin, Grandin Livestock Handling Systems, Fort Collins, Colo. (2004), Jim Leafstedt, National Pork Board, Alcester, S.D. (2003), Dr. Cindy Wolf, Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota (2002) and Dr. Robert Crandell, Viral Antigens, Inc., College Station, Tex. (2001). ■

## Amelita Facchiano receives NIAA Chairman's Award

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) 2005 Chairman's Award was presented to J. Amelita Facchiano, of GlobalVetLink, LC in Dallas, Tex., during the organization's annual recognition banquet.

The Chairman's Award, which recognizes the organization's Volunteer of the Year, was bestowed upon Facchiano for "possessing the true spirit of volunteerism," according to NIAA Chairman of the Board Dr. Rick Sibbel. "Amelita embodies the true meaning of volunteer, always willing to step up and offer assistance and service to the organization."



Past Recipients of the award are: Dr. Kenneth Olson, Federation of Animal Science Societies (2001), Jim Fraley, Illinois Farm Bureau (2002), Neil Hammerschmidt, Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (2003), and last year, collectively, to the members of the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) Steering Committee.

## Five Elected to NIAA Board of Directors

Members attending the 2005 Annual Meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture elected five individuals to serve on the organization's 15-member board of directors.

Elected to serve a three-year term were Leonard S. Bull, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., Thomas M. Cook, National Renderers Association, Arlington, Va., Jim Fraley, Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington, Ill., Lawrence E. Heider, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Washington, D.C., and David A. Miller, Iowa Farm Bureau, Des Moines, Iowa. ■



*Dr. Will Hueston talks with Iowa State University veterinary students during the Annual Meeting. AAVMC sponsored travel stipends this year, allowing students to attend the meeting.*

## Rick Sibbel begins second year as NIAA Chairman of the Board

### *NIAA Board of Directors keep officer team intact*

The 2005 annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, held April 3-7, marks the beginning of Rick Sibbel and Scott Stuart's second year as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the organization's board of directors.

Sibbel, a veterinarian, is director of global technical services for Schering-Plough Animal Health and resides in Ankeny, Iowa. Stuart is CEO of the National Livestock Producers Association and resides in Colorado Springs, Colo. NIAA members elected the pair to their posts in April 2004 for a two-year term.

"We are anticipating another progressive year for NIAA," said Sibbel. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as leadership for NIAA, and know with the dedicated leadership team that we will con-

tinue to have an impact on this industry."

Additionally, the NIAA board of directors elected a familiar set of faces to comprise its executive committee.

NIAA CEO Glenn Slack was re-elected as president of the organization. Jim Fraley, livestock program director at Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington, Ill., was re-elected as secretary and Jon Caspers, a pork producer from Swaledale, Iowa and past president of the National Pork Producers Council was re-elected as treasurer. Richard Breitmeyer, state veterinarian and director of animal health and food safety services at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, Calif., was re-elected as the executive committee's member at-large. ■



*Dr. Mo Salman (above, left), Colorado State University, addresses the Poultry Health Committee. Banquet speaker Dr. Michael Johnson (above, right) shows off a few rope tricks.*



*The 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting allows for multitudes of interaction for attendees. Dr. George Merrill, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and Dr. Donald Lein, Cornell University, (above) enjoy a coffee break during the General Session. Dr. Daryl Olsen (top, right), Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinics, speaks to the Animal Care Committee. Mike Robach, Cargill, Inc., (right) presents his thoughts on traceability during the Thursday symposium.*



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### Supreme Court rules Checkoff constitutional

The long-awaited ruling on the constitutionality of the beef checkoff was handed down on May 23, 2005, as the United States Supreme court ruled in favor of the checkoff and its constituents.

In a 6-3 vote, Justice Antonin Scalia delivered the opinion of the court stating, "Because the beef checkoff funds the Government's own speech, it is not susceptible to a First Amendment compelled-subsidy challenge."

The Livestock Marketing Association, the lead challenger of the case, was disappointed with the ruling.

"We are deeply disappointed in the Court's decision. Given the two strong decisions supporting our position, from the federal district court and the court of appeals, we had high hopes the Supreme Court would have decided otherwise," said LMA president Randy Patterson.

The National Pork Board applauded the decision, facing similar challenges to the Pork Checkoff. The Supreme Court of the United States has since set aside a lower court ruling declaring the Pork Checkoff unconstitutional and returned the case to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati with instructions to reconsider the case in light of its ruling on the beef checkoff.

### Emerging Zoonoses and Pathogens Review available

The World Organization for Animal Health, OIE, has made available a Scientific and Technical review, titled *Emerging Zoonoses and Pathogens of Public Health Concerns*. The interdependence of people and animals and the many different factors controlling this relationship have converged to create an environment that is conducive to the emergence of zoonotic pathogens.

Understanding this relationship and the ability to create new and more effective relationships with the public health sector is crucial for those involved in animal health.

This Review describes and explains a number of important emerging zoonoses and the factors that have both created their emergence and challenged national Veterinary Services, and the OIE itself, to become more engaged and responsive to these issues. It also highlights the dangers of constant adaptability of pathogens to survive and infect populations of animals and people, and to rapidly move between these host populations.

The Review can be ordered on the Internet at [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int), or via email at [pub.sales@oie.int](mailto:pub.sales@oie.int). The cost is 50 Euros, or approximately \$65 USD.

### House committee includes \$58 million to complete NADC construction

Topping the list of funds for Iowa based projects in an ag appropriations bill is the final \$58.8 million needed to fully fund the completion of the USDA's National Animal Disease Center located in Ames.

The amount approved by the House Appropriations Committee ensures completion of one of the largest public works projects in Iowa history, and the largest in USDA history. Iowa Congressman Tom Latham's staffers have indicated that the appropriations will have no problems passing through the House of Representatives.

### Canada, Mexico and U.S. Release Harmonized North American BSE Strategy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that Canada, Mexico and the United States have established a harmonized approach to bovine spongi-

form encephalopathy (BSE) risk mitigation to more effectively address any BSE risk in North America.

This science-based framework of risk management measures for BSE has been developed with the objective to help normalize trade in ruminants and ruminant products within North America and to promote an international BSE strategy consistent with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines. The strategy also represents the integrated North American approach that was presented to the OIE as part of further discussions to promote international harmonization of BSE risk mitigation measures through the OIE.

The minimum standards defined in the report have not been codified throughout North America. Rather, they will be considered by the appropriate animal health and public health officials in each country through their respective regulatory processes. These recommendations do not change the requirements in place for products currently being traded. The report is available on the Internet at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

### Japan to relax BSE testing policy

The United States has continued to pressure Japan to open their ports to American beef. And to the relief of many, Japan has decided to drop its policy on blanket testing, which will allow for progress in re-opening trade in that country.

"We are seeing signs of progress in the right direction," said Chuck Lambert, U.S. deputy undersecretary of agriculture, in an Associated Press interview. "We still believe that progress is painfully slow."

The decision was made on May 6 by Japan's Food Safety Commission that cattle aged 20 months or younger would not need to be tested, and has been formalized by the Japanese government.

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A timeline for when importing will resume has not been given, as Japan will continue to review the U.S.' preventative BSE measures.

The ban has been in place since December 2003. Japan, in 2003, was the top importer of American beef, valued at \$1.4 billion that year.

### Voluntary COOL bill proposed

Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte has introduced a bill (H.R. 2068) to the House of Representatives that would create a voluntary country of origin labeling program. The bill has been tagged as bipartisan, with 33 other congressmen signing on as sponsors.

"It has been three years since enactment of the 2002 Farm Bill and yet there is still a lack of consensus about how the COOL provisions can best be implemented," Goodlatte said in a statement. "I have always favored a voluntary approach and the legislation we are introducing will replace the current mandatory system, with its potential for creating another layer of regulatory and business cost, with a voluntary program."

The bill would allow for retailers to label meat products that were raised and processed solely in the U.S.

"A workable, voluntary labeling program needs the commitment of all segments of the meat or pork production chain to work together to benefit both producers and consumers by providing product origin information and not adding unnecessary costs without demonstrated benefits," said National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) President-Elect Joy Philippi, a pork producer from Bruning, Neb. "We are supportive of a voluntary system which would benefit consumers without unduly burdening producers, particularly independent and smaller pork producers." ■

## OIE takes significant action on global animal health issues

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) held their General Conference of 167-member countries in Paris, France on May 22-27. Approximately 700 participants representing the member countries, intergovernmental organizations (FAO, WHO, World Bank, WTO etc.) and many non-governmental organizations took part in the event.

The main points dealt with during the Session were as follows:

- Election of the Director General: Dr Bernard Vallat was re-elected Director General of the OIE by Member Countries. He was given a new mandate for five years.
- Within the framework of its usual standard-setting work, the Committee adopted or updated international standards aimed at providing better safeguards for the sanitary safety of world trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products.
- Standards on animal welfare were adopted, (i.e. slaughter for human consumption, land and sea transport of animals, and humane killing of animals for disease control purposes). For the first time, an organization with a global mandate provides the international community with standards in this field;
- Also, a new chapter on avian influenza in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, was adopted, so as to improve transparency and control methods of the disease, protection of human health and provide greater protection for countries importing poultry and poultry products while eliminating unjustified barriers to trade.
- The worldwide zoosanitary situation has been examined in detail.
- The OIE IVth Strategic Plan (for the period of 2005-2010) was adopted. It



goes over again the three priorities of the IIIrd Strategic Plan, consolidating them:

- Transparency of the global animal disease situation;
- Permanent elaboration of sanitary standards; and
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses worldwide.

The plan also includes two further priorities:

- Development and influence of the OIE in the field of the design and implementation of animal health related policies, as well as of veterinary research and sanitary governance;
- Reinforcement of capacity building, notably of the veterinary services in developing countries to allow them to better participate in the global fight against diseases;

Two technical items were debated during the Session and gave rise to Resolutions passed by the International Committee:

- Applications of genetic engineering for livestock and biotechnology products; and
- Implementation of OIE standards in the framework of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.

More information on the OIE General Conference is available on the Internet at [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int). ■

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

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

**Babcock Genetics, Inc.**  
Mr. James McPeak  
P.O. Box 759  
Rochester, MN 55903-0759

**Pfizer Animal Health Inc.**  
Dr. Steve Sornsen  
2924 Ridgetop Road  
Ames, IA 50014

### **Individual Member (Self-Employed):**

**Dr. Richard D. Hull**  
2704 Tartan Way  
Springfield, IL 62711

### **State-Level Associations & Publicly Supported Institutions/Agencies:**

**Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries**  
Dr. Tony Frazier  
P.O. Box 3336  
Montgomery, AL 36109-0336

**Colorado State University, Department of Animal Science/Extension**  
Dr. Jeff Goodwin  
123 Aylesworth Hall NW  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-4050

**Illinois Department of Agriculture**  
Dr. Mark Ernst  
P.O. Box 19281, State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

**Maryland 4-H Center**  
Dr. Williard LeMaster  
8020 Greenmead Drive  
College Park, MD 20740-4000

**New Mexico Livestock Board**  
Dr. Dave Fly  
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## *Members in the news*

### **Grandin resigns KFC advisory role**

Colorado State University professor **Dr. Temple Grandin**, past chair of NIAA's animal care committee, has resigned her position as an animal welfare consultant for Yum! Brands poultry giant KFC. Grandin is revered by many for her expertise on animal handling and welfare issues, and serves in a variety of consultant roles for food service companies and animal agriculture organizations alike. Her move came following KFC officials asking welfare consultants to agree not to speak publicly about animal welfare policies. Grandin was joined in her departure by fellow welfare expert Ian Duncan of the University of Guelph.

"I resigned because there is a document that I can't sign. I feel very strongly that I can talk freely to the press about how the program's

working, what's been going on with the program," Grandin told Reuters News Service.

### **NLPA Beefmobile wins award**

When the Beefmobile program was approved by the Cattlemen's Beef Board on behalf of America's beef producers, the goal wasn't to win an award. The driving goal was to reach out to grassroots producers who contribute to the beef checkoff and let them know how their dollars are invested. Another was to provide consumers with information about beef safety and nutrition, and build demand for beef at the retail level.

In meeting those two key goals, however, the Beefmobile project has also won a national award. The National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) recently selected the Beefmobile project as the best producer-funded public relations pro-

gram to agricultural audiences in the nation.

R. Scott Stuart, president and CEO of the **National Livestock Producers Association**, stated that NLPA is extremely pleased to be a contractor to the Cattlemen's Beef Board and honored that the Beefmobile program has made its mark in the beef industry and agriculture.

"When you consider the budget of the Beefmobile program and the budget of other programs, those selecting the award winners definitely had to be impressed with the Beefmobile's return on investment," Stuart said. "We are also extremely pleased that the Cattlemen's Beef Board recognized the value of the Beefmobile when the proposal was presented. If they had not approved the program in the beginning, the Beefmobile wouldn't be in existence."

Stuart adds that the Beefmobile was funded again in 2005 and is making 100 stops at livestock marketing facilities, producer events and consumer venues across the U.S.

## Members attend OIE general conference

Drs. Bret Marsh, Willie Reed and Lyle Vogel recently participated in the 73rd General Session of the OIE, the World Organization for Animal Health. The three accompanied USDA officials comprising the U.S. delegation.

Marsh, executive director of the

**Indiana Board of Animal Health** and president-elect of the U.S. Animal Health Association, Reed, director of the **Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health** and immediate past president of the **American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians**, and Vogel, director of scientific activities at the **American Veterinary Medical Association**, were in Paris, France, May 22-27, to attend the proceedings of OIE, which is recognized by the World Trade Organization as the international standard-setting

body for animal health.

Dr. Peter Fernandez, associate administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), led the U.S. delegation. Other members included: Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator of APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS); Dr. Alex Thiermann, coordinator of International Organization Activities for APHIS, International Services; Dr. Michael David, director of the Sanitary International Standards Team for VS; and Dr. Bill James, assistant deputy administrator for USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. ■

## Renewing members!

*(during the past quarter)*

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

AgInfoLink USA Inc.  
Allflex USA, Inc.  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
American Quarter Horse Association  
APC, Inc  
Bio-Rad Laboratories  
Bock's Cattle-Identi Company, Inc.  
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.  
Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation  
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.  
Digital Angel and Electronic ID, Inc.  
EZ -ID/AVID ID Systems  
GlobalVetLink, L.C.  
MetaFarms, Inc.  
National DHIA, Inc.  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Board  
National Pork Producers Council  
Science Applications International Corporation  
Wiechman Pig Company, Inc.  
Y-TEX Corporation

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

Dr. Martha A. Acosta  
Dr. Claude E. Barton  
Dr. Joseph F. Connor  
Dr. Linda A. Detwiler  
Mr. Robert Kleemeier  
Dr. Roger E. Olson  
Dr. Wendell Peden  
Mr. James E. Stocker

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

Arizona Department of Agriculture  
Clemson University, Livestock & Poultry Health Division  
Colorado Department of Agriculture  
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Indiana State Board of Animal Health  
Iowa State University, Outreach Academy  
Kentucky Beef Network  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation  
Michigan Department of Agriculture  
National Animal Disease Center  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Ontario Pork Producers Marketing Board  
South Dakota Pork Producers Council  
Tennessee Department of Agriculture  
University of Idaho, State 4-H Office  
University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science

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

Dalton EID Systems Ltd.  
HI-PLAINS SYSTEMS, Inc.  
Dr. Jake Hines  
Dr. Sheila Keay  
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association  
National Bison Association  
Not Rocket Science, Inc.  
The Dutch Warmblood Studbook in North America  
TREK Diagnostic Systems, Inc.  
Vande Berg Scales

## NIAA CEO conveys commitment to animal ID

Implementation is underway and the United States will have a coordinated, national system for animal identification in place by the end of the decade. That was the message delivered by Glenn Slack, president and CEO of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, to an international audience in mid-April.

Speaking at a conference on traceability during SIAL, the largest international food exhibition dedicated to the North American food distribution industry held every other year in Montreal, Slack said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed in April that 45 states have premises registration capability in place and approximately 55,000 premises have been registered in the U.S. "That's a small percentage of premises, however significant progress is evident when comparing these figures to a year earlier."

Slack said that confidentiality concerns and funding are still being hammered out, but predicted that

such issues would be resolved by an industry that is largely in consensus on the end goal and determined to ensure rapid traceability of farm animals.

Slack added that the desire for traceability by food service and retail companies, such as McDonald's and Wal-Mart, makes a comprehensive traceability system appear inevitable, thus highlighting the need for on-farm identification programs to continue progress.

Also speaking at the conference, Daniel Chaisemartin, representing OIE – the World Organization for Animal Health, said the push is on across the globe to establish standardized systems for animal traceability. "Identification and traceability are considered key tools in the sphere of animal health, public health and trade."



Glenn Slack spoke to an international audience in Montreal, stressing the U.S. commitment to the establishment of a national animal identification system.

Chaisemartin reported on results of a recent survey among OIE's 167 member countries and said an international working group is being formed this year. He said that OIE will provide member countries with specialized technical assistance to facilitate the design and implementation of animal identification and traceability systems.

Some 14,000 individuals were expected to attend the exhibition, representing 80 countries. ■

## Vet schools to re-shape curricula to meet 21st century

The unique challenges facing animal agriculture in the 21st century such as bioterrorism and zoonotic diseases, as well as new technologies, require schools of veterinary medicine to prepare their graduates to do more than "simply treat animal diseases," according to Dr. Bennie I. Osburn, Dean of the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine. Osburn delivered the keynote address to the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) at its annual meeting in April.

Dr. Osburn cited the fact that only 70 veterinarians are responsible for nine billion head of poultry, 75 veterinarians look after 120 million head of hogs and 75 for 30 million head of beef cattle.

Dr. Osburn further points out that



DR. BENNIE OSBURN

with the large concentration of animals in various areas, emerging new diseases such as avian flu and BSE as well as the threat of bioterrorism, veterinarians today need a different skill set.

"They need to be able to help their clients set up biosecurity plans and procedures," said Osburn. "They need to be able to help their clients train employees in not only executing biosecurity procedures but in recognizing and treating animals. Often these employees speak little or no English."

"Technology, whether it is an environmental monitoring system in a poultry facility or a data transmission and storage system or GPS system, requires today's vet to be technically savvy and up-to-date," he says. ■

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