

News & Information for Animal Agriculture

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Joint Strategy Forum on Animal Disease Traceability Set for Aug. 30-31

The USDA's announcement that it intends to publish new rules regarding animal disease traceability by this winter has prompted a Joint Strategy Forum on Animal Disease Traceability at the Renaissance Denver Hotel in Denver, Colo., on Aug. 30-31. Co-hosted by United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, the two-day conference will allow State and Tribal animal health officials, livestock marketers and handlers, animal producers and meat processors to interact and comment on preliminary standards developed by USDA's Traceability Regulatory Working Group and expected to be released in mid-August.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in February that USDA would be redirecting its efforts surrounding animal identification in the nation to the development of a framework for animal disease traceability, and the new framework places USDA in the role of determining rules for interstate movement of animals. It also places the responsibility of traceability on States and Tribal Nations within their own boundaries.

"Given the details involved with this change in direction for animal disease traceability, many questions are being raised by animal producers, marketers and State and Tribal animal health officials, and these questions deserve attention," Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, State Veterinarian for California and current president of USAHA, states.

Dr. Breitmeyer adds that, although USDA has been conducting a series of public meetings to gather feedback on the proposed new framework, the public sessions have not provided the opportunity for all animal health officials and industry participants to meet jointly.

"This Forum will allow for the open flow of ideas and concerns among producers and others involved in animal production, State and Tribal officials responsible for protecting the health of animals in their areas and USDA officials," Dr. Breitmeyer states. "Unless we have a discussion including all parties, the development of a viable animal disease traceability framework will be much more difficult."

Dr. Michael Coe, co-chair of the Forum Planning Committee, agrees with Dr. Breitmeyer.

"Given the timeline, industry and the States and Tribes need to make their positions known to decision-makers," Dr. Coe states. "The USDA has announced that it intends to publish new rules on disease traceability by this winter, and this makes the Forum crucial in conveying input before the rule is complete.

"I cannot emphasize enough the importance for everyone interested in the development of an effective and efficient system of identifying animals that move across State and Tribal lines in the United States to attend this Forum."

Dr. Coe points out that interactive sessions during the Forum will cover all species of animals for which interstate movement requires compliance with animal health regulations and . (See conference agenda on Page 3)

Questions that will be addressed and answered by attendees during the Forum include. . .

- What ID can be used for interstate movement of each species?

(Continued on Page 3)



www.animalagriculture.org

The official newsletter of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that unites and advances animal agriculture—the beef, dairy, equine, goat, poultry, sheep and swine industries. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. NIAA members include farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials and business leaders.

The Agreement Between Ohio Ag & HSUS

Guest Editorial by Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

For nearly a year, Ohio farmers were preparing to lock horns with the Humane Society of the United States over a ballot issue that would place a constitutional ban on certain livestock housing methods. A victory by farmers would have dealt a blow to HSUS but certainly would not have ended the group's efforts; a defeat could have shuttered a large portion of Ohio pork and egg production, rocked Ohio's farm economy and overturned the accomplishments of Issue 2, which placed animal care decisions in the hands of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

Decades of investment and gains farmers have made in building relationships with the public through agriculture in the classroom programs, farm tours, farmers' share breakfasts, media promotions and other outreach events could have been wiped away by a multimillion dollar blitz of television commercials that inundate consumers with horrific images of animal abuse.

On top of that, HSUS was putting in place its plans to connect farmers to environmental and health problems, to divide the farm and veterinary communities and to gather endorsements from religious leaders, a tactic to imply that contemporary livestock production

is immoral. Consumer trust in agriculture was going to be shaken.

With no other option, standing up to HSUS's ballot challenge was the right course of action. The costs of lettering the group Ohio's Constitution with unworkable rules were far too high.

Ohio's Farm Bureau's board of trustees ultimately decided that if the organization was going to consider an alternative to the ballot box, five principles should be maintained:

-Preserve agricultural unity.

-Protect the full authority of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, an independent body of Ohio farmers, veterinarians, consumer advocates and others.

-Create a positive business climate to keep Ohio's farmers competitive.

-Strengthen the partnership between farmers and consumers.

In the end, farm groups remained united, the Livestock Care Standards Board wasn't forced to adopt HSUS's rules, Ohio farmers could invest in the operations with more certainty and the relationship between farmers and consumers would not be strained.

Nevertheless, farmers should not drop their guard against HSUS. Its mission is to put us out of business. They have not

backed off of their mission, nor have we. This is one event in many more to come.

Through the agreement reached with farm organizations, however, HSUS has publicly recognized the OLCSB and agreed to work with this group. If HSUS sours on the deal, and brings its signatures back to Ohio, they will no longer be confronting farmers. They will be clashing directly with the voter-approved livestock board and Ohio's constitutional model of governance. The hill they are climbing gets much steeper.

Note: Organizations involved in the agreement included Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Pork Producers Council, Ohio Poultry Association, Ohio Cattlemen's Association, Ohio Dairy Producers Association, Ohio Soybean Association, Ohio Corn Growers Association and the Humane Society of the United States.



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Joint Strategy Forum on Animal Disease Traceability

*Bringing Industry and Regulatory Leaders
Together To Create Sensible Solutions*



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Monday, August 30

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and Purpose of Meeting
Dr. Robert Fourdraine, Chairman of the Board NIAA
Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, President USAHA
- 1:10 p.m. Update on Animal Disease Traceability Framework
Dr. John Clifford/Neil Hammerschmidt
- 1:40 p.m. Progress Report: Traceability Regulation Working Group
Dr. Keith Roehr, Colorado State Veterinarian
- 2:10 p.m. State Veterinarians' Update
Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, President NASAHO
- 2:40 p.m. Q&A
- 3:00 p.m. Refreshment Break
- 3:30 p.m. Reaction Breakouts
I. Cattle (Cow/Calf, Stockers, Feeders, Markets, Packers, Dairy)
Facilitated by Dr. Nevil Speer, Western Kentucky University
- II. Swine, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Poultry
Facilitators TBD
- 5:30 p.m. Reception
- 7:30 p.m. National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials meeting

Tuesday, August 31

- 8:00 a.m. Presentations by Representatives of the Breakout Groups
- 9:30 a.m. Break
- 9:45 a.m. Interactive Session to Discuss Solutions
Facilitated by Dr. Dave Daley, Chico State University
- Noon Box lunch provided
- 12:15 p.m. Interactive Session to Identify Consensus Points
Facilitated by Mr. Wes Ishmael, BEEF, and
Mr. John Maday, Drovers
- 2:00 p.m. Adjourn

REGISTER TODAY and HAVE A VOICE IN THE NEW FRAMEWORK!

(Continued from Page 1)

- What will be allowed for premises ID?
- Standards for database structure?
- What database(s) should be used for tracking interstate movement?
- What parts of the national database system are up and running?
- New role for the AIN manager?
- Collection of identification at slaughter?

Hotel, Registration

All Forum activities will be conducted at the Renaissance Denver Hotel.

A block of rooms have been set aside for the Forum at a special nightly rate of just \$105 for single or double occupancy. Rooms must be booked by Aug. 9 to receive this special rate. Reservations can be made online or by calling 1-800-468-3571. When making reservations, you must verify the rate and advise the reservations agent that you are with the National Institute for Animal Agriculture-United States Animal Health Association joint meeting.

The conference registration fee of \$250 includes all general sessions, break-out sessions, lunch, reception and refreshments. USAHA members and NIAA members qualify for a \$50 discount, making their registration fee just \$200.

You can register for the Joint Strategy Forum on Animal Disease Traceability online or obtain a pdf of the registration form by visiting <http://animalagriculture.org/Solutions/Joint%20Forum/Registration%20Info.html>

Ohio Ag Agreement Brokered by Ohio Governor a 'Work in Progress'

An agreement brokered by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland the last day of June between agriculture groups in Ohio and the Humane Society of the United States was reached on the same day Ohioans for Humane Farms would have delivered more than 500,000 signatures to Ohio's Secretary of State. The signatures reportedly would have been enough to put an anti-factory farming measure before Ohio voters in November, with the initiative calling for much more stringent animal welfare rules than those included in the agreement.

The process began in early 2009, when the Humane Society of the United States brought its concerns on animal housing practices to Ohio farm organizations. The farm groups took action by supporting the creation of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, which is charged with setting the state's animal care policies.

In response, Ohioans for Humane Farms, a group primarily funded by

HSUS, then launched a campaign to force the Livestock Care Standards Board to adopt certain animal care policies. That led to the discussions between the Ohio governor, HSUS and organizations representing dairy, beef, poultry pork, soybean and corn, along with the Ohio Farm Bureau.

A news release issued by HSUS states that the agreement "will lead to major animal welfare improvements in Ohio on a raft of issues, reforming industry practices and improving prospects for adoption of critical legislation in other areas." HSUS acknowledges that the agreement puts a hold on a planned factory farming initiative on the fall ballot.

Agriculture groups point out that the brokered agreement is a good-faith promise, not a legal document and is a work in progress. That said, the agreement has three key benefits for animal agriculture: 1) The agreement helps avoid a costly, contentious ballot initiative in Ohio's November 2010 election; 2) It provides certainty for beef, dairy, pork, sheep, goat and poultry producers making future business decisions; and 3) It averts voter action that could usurp the authority of the OLCSB.

Jamie King, Director of Member Services and Communications, Ohio Cattlemen's Association and Ohio Beef Council, stresses that the agreement "will allow all of us to focus on our shared commitment to ensuring excellent care of Ohio's farm animals."

"It also will give the Ohio Livestock

Care Standards Board time to work—that's what Ohio voters and Ohio farmers wanted," she interjects.

Jamie Banbury with Ohio Pork defends the livestock industry's decision to compromise with HSUS, noting that it's "an agreement we can live with" and allows the pork industry in Ohio to remain viable.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation also supports the agreement, noting the agreement validates Ohio voters' decision last fall to pass State Issue 2, which established the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board as the appropriate venue for defining acceptable farm animal care practices. The Ohio Farm Bureau stresses that all of the livestock provisions in the agreement are offered as recommendations to the board, which has retained its authority to ultimately determine Ohio's animal care standards.

"One of animal agriculture's most vocal critics has agreed that the Livestock Care Standards Board is the proper authority to handle difficult questions about farm animal care," said Jack Fisher, OFBF executive vice

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Ohio Ag Group Agreement

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president. "The agreement represents recommendations as to what Ohio farm organizations believe to be acceptable ways to deal with some extremely contentious issues."

OFBF cited additional reasons for supporting the agreement: 1) Farmers now have certainty for an extended period of time regarding housing regulations; 2) The livestock industry will be less vulnerable to emotional video used to sway public opinion on farm animal care; and 3) Farmers, their organizations and allies will not be forced into a multi-million dollar media battle.

One source estimated that a ballot fight in Ohio would have cost farmers, their organizations and allies \$10 million to \$15 million, with "at best a 50/50 chance of victory."

"Even if we had won, our deep-pocketed opponents likely would have returned year after year until we ran out of money" states a paper released by the Ohio Farm Bureau.

With an agreement reached in Ohio, it appears that HSUS has other states—namely Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois and Nebraska—as possible new targets.

"Ohio farmers are in a position of strength because of their work to establish the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board," Fisher said. "Without it, the only way to deal with these issues would be divisive ballot campaigns. That hasn't worked out well for farmers in other states."



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10-Point OLCSB Agreement

The actual agreement between The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board (OLCSB) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has 10 points:

1) Recommendations will be made to The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board to take action on issues related to downer cattle and humane euthanasia using language consistent with the proposed ballot initiative.

2) The Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will coordinate and take action on wild and dangerous animals including the prohibition of the sale and/or possession of big cats, bears, primates, large constricting and venomous snakes and alligators and crocodiles. Existing owners will be grandfathered in, but they could not breed or obtain new animals.

3) Recommendations will be made to the legislature to support and pass SB 95 largely in the current form, which regulates dog breeding kennels.

4) Recommendations will be made to the legislature to support and pass HB 108, which will increase penalties on individuals who engage in cockfighting.

5) Recommendations will be made to the OLCSB to adopt the American Veal Association 2007 agreement to transition to group housing for veal calves by 2017.

6) HSUS will issue a statement in support of the mission and purpose of the OLCSB and will engage and work with the Board. Organizations representing Ohioans for Livestock Care and the HSUS will examine and jointly fund independent research projects and studies to identify best practices and to work for the highest farm animal care and welfare standards. If assistance of a third party is needed, they will jointly agree on a representative to help in these discussions. When this work is complete, the findings will be presented to the OLCSB.

7) Recommendation will be made to the OLCSB for current hog producers and to phase out the use of gestation crates by December 31, 2025. By that date time all sows must be housed using alternative systems. After December 31, 2010, any new facilities must utilize alternative sow housing (not gestation crates). It is understood that in all housing systems, sows may be housed in breeding/gestation stalls until they are confirmed pregnant.

8) Recommendation will be made to the OLCSB to adopt standards to instruct ODA to deny permits of new egg facility applicants, based on current permitting standards that call for the use of battery cages. This standard will be in effect for the life of this agreement. This provision does not preclude any Ohio farm from expanding or modifying existing permits, using current housing methods at the existing facility.

9) HSUS will also not initiate litigation (nuisance or otherwise) to attempt to use legal process to obtain the same ends as articulated in the ballot initiative in Ohio through the life of this agreement. HSUS will not fund, advise or otherwise support other organizations to move forward in their place.

10) The HSUS will not submit a constitutional amendment on animal welfare in 2010 to the Ohio Secretary of State. Failure to implement the provisions related to wild and dangerous animals or the reforms recommended to the OLCSB by December 31, 2010 could void the agreement and allow the HSUS to pursue a ballot initiative whenever it chooses. However, if the terms of this agreement are met and implemented to the satisfaction of all parties, the agreement will extend to January 1, 2014. At that time the agreement shall be extended through January 1, 2017, and subsequently through January 1, 2020, if the terms continue to be met, and no party shall reasonably withhold its consent to the extensions. Any future pursuit of a ballot initiative by HSUS could nullify the limitation on gestation crate or battery cage facilities until and unless other lawful prohibitions come to exist.

Welcome to Our Newest NIAA Member: IMI Global

Members in the News & Other Items of Interest

LMA Elects 2010 Officers

David Macedo, 2006 World Livestock Auctioneer Champion and veteran California marketman, is **Livestock Marketing Association's** president for 2010-2012. Tim Starks, co-owner and manager of Cherokee Livestock Sales Co., Cherokee, Okla., for 12 years, and a veterinarian, is the new vice president. Newly-elected to the LMA board for two-year terms are Wayne Geistweidt, Fredericksburg, Texas, and Jim Santomaso, Sterling, Colo. Re-elected to the board were Jerry Etheredge, Linden, Ala., T. Phil Harvey, Jackson, Ga., and Randy Patterson, Anthony, Kan

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Honors Three

The Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame is a new program created to honor the most innovative and influential individuals in the cattle-feeding business. Honored in mid July as the 2010 inductees were the late Kenny Monfort of Colorado and H.C. (Ladd) Hitch of Hitch Enterprises based in Oklahoma.

The Hall also introduced a new "Industry Leadership Award" to honor the contributions of a non-cattle feeder to the industry. The first recipient of this prestigious award was a man whose name has been synonymous with cattle feeding in Texas and the Southwest for three decades: Richard McDonald, Ph.D. Since the 1970s, McDonald was the face of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, at times holding the titles of executive vice president, executive director, president and CEO. He retired from TCFA in 2006.

YouTube 'Must Watch'

The Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations says world food production will need to double by the year 2050 in order to head off mass hunger, and this will require education and technology. While the prospect of doubling current food production may seem daunting, a video released by BASF points out that agricultural production has already shown tremendous progress during the past 60 years.

The video, titled "One Hungry Planet," is on YouTube and does a super job of conveying the truth in a quick, snappy way.

One reviewer wrote this about the short video: "Excellent video that should be shared in classrooms across our country."

"One Hungry Planet" can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd-48Zw0Tr4>

Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign Benefits 4,000-plus Horses to Date

More than 1,600 unwanted horses received critical vaccines this spring through the Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign (UHVRC), a program sponsored by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and **Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health**.

Established in 2008, the campaign, provides free equine vaccines to rescue and retirement facilities in North America. To date, more than 4,000 horses have been vaccinated through the program.

The AAEP is currently accepting applications from qualifying rescue and retirement facilities in need of vaccinations this fall. The deadline to apply for vaccinations is Aug. 1.

Johne's Disease Q&A Booklet for Goat Industry

A 16-page Q&A booklet about Johne's disease is being developed for the goat industry and should be ready for dissemination in early September.

"The new booklet is in response to requests from individuals within the goat industry for a science-based piece that

is appropriate for producer audiences," states Dr. Michael Carter, National Johne's Disease Control Program Coordinator, National Center for Animal Health Programs, USDA-APHIS-VS.

The Q&A booklet is being developed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the National Johne's Education Initiative.

BIVI Presents Equine Award

Shannon John J. Moreaux, DVM, assistant professor of equine science at Montana State University, has been awarded the **Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI)** Equine Leadership Award. The award is given to those in the equine industry who have demonstrated outstanding leadership by promoting the benefits of horse ownership, advancing modern equine wellness programs and increasing the overall awareness of the industry.

ExPOSE HSUS

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