

Swine HEALTH REPORT

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Spring/Summer 2006

AASV Board Approves Formation of PRRS Eradication Task Force

The board of directors of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) has approved the formation of a task force to coordinate regional and national efforts to eliminate the virus known as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, or PRRS.

The North American PRRS Eradication Task Force was proposed by AASV President Dr. Scott Dee of Minnesota. Individuals serving on the task force will represent stakeholders from across North America including practitioners, researchers and producers.

According to Dr. Harry Snelson, AASV Director of Communications, the goal of the

task force will be to serve as a steering committee to provide "direction, knowledge resources and coordination for national and regional PRRS virus elimina-

The task force will provide "direction, knowledge resources and coordination for national and regional PRRS virus elimination efforts."

tion efforts." He said the task force will also facilitate the dissemination of information related to PRRS virus and elimination efforts from around the nation.

Dee has been a proponent of starting at the local or regional levels to eliminate the virus then moving toward ultimately eradicating the disease from the U.S. domestic pig population.

In October 2005, the AASV

board adopted a position statement calling for the eradication of PRRS (Swine Health Report, Fall 2005). The statement indicated association's interest in taking "a leadership role by partnering with the swine industry to promote collaborative PRRS eradication efforts..."

Snelson, speaking at the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Swine Health Committee meeting in April, said PRRS eradication will be approached similar to the pseudorabies eradication program, involving industry academia, veterinarians and government agencies in a collaborative effort. He also shared a proposed timeline for the eradication of PRRS in Minnesota by 2021.

Individuals serving on the task force will be named by the AASV PRRS Committee. ●

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Swine Veterinarians Elect 2006-07 Officers

Dr. Scott Dee Installed as AASV President; Awards Given to Three

Dr. Scott Dee, Alexandria, Minn., was installed as the 37th president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians



Dr. Scott Dee

(AASV) during the association's annual meeting in Kansas City in March. He succeeds Dr. Tom Gillespie, Rensselaer, Ind., who

will serve a term as immediate past president.

Joining Dee and Gillespie as AASV officers are Dr. Daryl Olsen, Audubon, Iowa, president-elect; and Dr. Kerry Keffaber, North Manchester, Ind., newly elected vice president.

"I am confident that our association will serve as the model for all veterinary species-oriented associations in regard to how vet-

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Johanns Releases NAIS Implementation Plan

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced the release of an implementation plan that outlines timelines and benchmarks for the establishment of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), along with a plan for the initial integration of private and state animal tracking databases with NAIS.

"Developing an effective animal identification system has been a high priority for USDA and we've made significant strides toward achieving a comprehensive U.S. system," said Johanns. "We recognize that this represents one of the largest systematic changes ever faced by the livestock industry."

The implementation plan



continues to set an aggressive timeline for ensuring full implementation of the NAIS by 2009. It establishes benchmarks for incrementally accomplishing the remaining implementation goals to enable all components of the NAIS to be operational by 2007, and to achieve full producer participation by 2009.

Several important components have already been accomplished. These include the development of premises registration systems in each state and the issuance of guidelines for the manufacture and distribution of animal identification numbers. More than 270,000 premises are currently registered.

"We have a plan in place and we need producers to take the first step by registering for a premises identification number," said Jim Niewold, a pork producer from Loda, Ill., and member of the Swine ID Implementation Task Force.

"The program was developed by producers to protect animal health. Voluntary implementation of the program by our industry will help us transition smoothly . . ." Niewold said.

Standards for Database Integration

USDA also released the general technical standards for animal tracking databases that will enable integration of private systems with the NAIS. Private data-

base owners are invited to submit applications for system evaluation to USDA and offer feedback as the final technical requirements are established. USDA will then enter into cooperative agreements with owners of databases that meet the standards. The application for system evaluation and a draft cooperative agreement are available on the NAIS web site at www.usda.gov/nais.

By early 2007, USDA expects to have the technology in place, called the Animal Trace Processing System or commonly known as the portal system. The animal tracking databases will record and store animal movement tracking information for livestock that state and federal animal health officials will query only for animals of interest in a disease investigation.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is also finalizing \$3 million in funds that will be awarded to a number of states and tribes to conduct field trials to analyze information pertaining to animal identification. Field trials will focus on the evaluation of new technologies for animal identification and automated data collection. APHIS will also fund an economic study focusing on the cost of NAIS implementation within a state; the development of procedures to measure the performance of identification devices and a bi-state study to develop recommendations regarding livestock exhibitions to achieve compatibility with the NAIS.

The NAIS implementation plan, along with more information about the program, is available at www.usda.gov/nais. ●



Swine Health Report

Spring/Summer 2006

Swine Health Report provides the latest information on issues pertinent to swine health initiatives, strategies, research and regulatory action. It is a communications initiative of the NIAA Swine Health Committee and is produced in cooperation with USDA-APHIS. Reprinting is encouraged.

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ID/INFO EXPO 2006 to Highlight Practical Animal ID Solutions

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has announced plans for ID/INFO EXPO 2006, a national conference and trade show devoted to animal identification and information systems technology. This year's event will take place, August 22-24 in Kansas City, Mo.

"We are expecting a great meeting for the latest information in animal identification," said R. Scott Stuart, NIAA Chairman of the Board and CEO of the National Livestock Producers Association. "Our planning committee is working diligently in finalizing what looks to be an excellent program."

A trade show, showcasing a variety of animal identification and information systems technology, will take place on August 22 & 23. In addition to the trade show, ID/INFO EXPO 2006 will feature:

August 22:

- Pre-Conference seminar outlining the basics of NAIS with exclusive species working group reports and a review of pending revisions to ISO standards.

ID•INFO EXPO 2006

- An in-depth seminar looking at key elements of USDA's IT Infrastructure, specifically the AIN Management System and the recently announced Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS).
- A half-day of technology seminars from the leading developers, suppliers, and information managers engaged in animal identification and traceability.

August 23:

- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has been invited to provide the keynote address.
- A review of state legislative



efforts to implement the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), including legal authority and FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) issues.

- A review and discussion on ongoing NAIS education and outreach efforts.
- A panel discussion featuring NAIS proponents and opponents discussing the merits of a national animal identification system.

The third and final day will go beyond NAIS with a complete focus on the practical application of animal ID solutions. Presentations and discussion will highlight current services and value-added programs that have already been implemented and are working for producers.

Online registration is now open. NIAA is offering membership and early registration discounts with the best rates attainable by June 30. Information, including registration, lodging, and preliminary schedule of events, is available on the Internet at animalagriculture.org/id/IDINFOEXPO2006/Default.htm, or by calling 270-782-9798. ●

Swine Veterinarians (cont'd from page 1)

erinarrians work with industry to solve economically significant problems related to food animals," said Dee.

"Specifically, my focus will be to build an industry-wide team dedicated to the long-term goal of eliminating the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus from the North American pig population."

Dee is a professor in the



Swine Disease Eradication Center at the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining the faculty in 1999, he was a private practitioner in a swine-specific practice in Morris, Minn., for 12 years. In 1996, he was named AASV Swine Practitioner of the Year.

During the annual meeting, AASV honored three members for their contributions to the associ-

ation and the swine industry. Dr. Mark Fitzsimmons, Eagle Lake, Minn., was named the 2006 Swine Practitioner of the Year; Dr. Jim Collins, White Bear Lake, Minn., was awarded the Howard Dunne Memorial Award for his contributions and outstanding service to the association and the swine industry; and Dr. Cate Dewey, Guelph, Ontario, received the Meritorious Service Award. ●

Business Continuity Symposium Inspires Disaster Preparedness

Food is no less than a trillion dollar industry in the United States. At the farm level, animals are a whopping \$124 billion dollar industry, not to mention a major foundation of the domestic crop industries.

Dr. Christopher Hurt, an agricultural economist with Purdue University, belted out these compelling statistics to open the special symposium on Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning held April 6, 2006 in conjunction with the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's annual meeting in Louisville, KY.

More than 100 stakeholders attending the landmark symposium were bombarded with eye-opening details regarding all that's at stake in the big leagues of U.S. animal agriculture. According to Hurt, based on a 2001 study, a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in this country could cost beef producers at least \$4.3 billion at the farm level, and \$2.4 billion in losses to pork producers.

Figure in projected loss of exports, loss of U.S. consumption and losses for related industries compounded by direct costs of control and inevitable indirect losses due to FMD, and all excuses to not be prepared for disaster should be washed away.

"A formal program on business continuity planning for any type of disaster affecting animal agriculture has never been done in the past," says Dr. Leonard Bull, a North Carolina State University animal scientist who chaired the symposium. "In light of recent natural disasters, most especially Hurricane Katrina, and ever present terrorist threats, business continuity planning has



Speaking during the business continuity symposium, Dr. Harry Snelson, American Association of Swine Veterinarians, was a member of the symposium planning committee.

quickly become the single most important issue in our industry."

Symposium speakers included Dr. David Bessler, a Texas A&M University agricultural economist who addressed the 2001 United Kingdom FMD experience and the challenge of re-establishing a domestic market.

"Most animal production systems cannot afford much down time and in the presence of excessive down time they simply won't survive."

DR. LEONARD BULL
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

An expert panel including Dr. Jimmy Tickel with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Harry Snelson, representing the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, Dr. Barrett Slenning, with North Carolina State University, and Dr. Sebastian Heath, an Emergency Programs representative with

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, discussed "'Stamping Out' and 'Managed' Eradication: The Best Technology."

Another major component was an expert panel discussion on controversial stop movement issues.

As a result, one tremendous benefit of the symposium, says Bull, is that it helped people identify the fact that proposed disaster lockdowns and stop movement orders of 72 hours or more have to be modified in order to keep livestock producers in business.

"Most animal production systems cannot afford much down time and in the presence of excessive down time they simply won't survive," Bull emphasizes. "For example, most animal units typically have only enough feed on hand to last 24 to 36 hours. The symposium clearly heightened awareness on the part of regulatory officials that it's critical to accommodate livestock producers with stop movement orders of less than 72 hours."

The whole issue of business continuity and disaster recovery planning needs to continue to be promoted, Bull says. "Emphasis on getting livestock producers back in business after a disaster needs to be put in front of people everywhere," he relates.

"Fortunately, the NIAA symposium has inspired stakeholders to initiate preparedness programs in a number of states."

To access the symposium presentations, check out: www.animalagriculture.org/proceedings/2006AMProceedings.asp. ●

*By: Linda L. Leake
Contributing Writer*

Projected Serious Food Supply Veterinarian Shortage Poses Threat to Industry, Society

America's livestock and meat industries have one of the world's best health and safety records, but that status may be threatened in the years ahead because of a projected severe shortage of food animal veterinarians, according to the most comprehensive veterinary business study ever conducted on the current and future state of the large animal veterinary profession.

While projected demand for food supply veterinarians will increase a modest 12 percent to 13 percent between now and 2016, the research forecasts a shortfall of 4 percent to 5 percent per year. This means for every 100 food supply veterinary jobs available, there will be only 96 veterinarians available to fill them due to decreasing numbers of veterinary students choosing to practice in the fields in food supply specialties and socio-economic trends, including further declines in rural populations.

"With the American public more focused than ever on food safety and security, the role of the food animal veterinarian has never been more important," said Dr. Lyle Vogel, director of the Animal Welfare Division of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). "Needless to say, we can't afford to have a shortage of large animal veterinarians. It would be catastrophic for the industry and for society."

The research was published in three articles in the June 1, June 15, and July 1, 2006, issues of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA). The studies, commissioned in 2004 by a coalition of

veterinarian organizations and conducted by Kansas State University's College of Business Administration focused on several aspects of the veterinarian profession: comparison of future demand and supply, veterinary student attraction to food supply careers, and career satisfaction and retention.

The findings were based on a review of current studies and literature, conduct of four focus

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DR. LYLE VOGEL
AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSN.

groups, conduct of 13 expert judgment-based forecasting (Delphi) panels representing different sectors of the food supply profession, and surveys conducted with veterinary students, recent graduates, and veterinarians in practice.

Survey respondents cited several keys to keeping current food animal veterinarians in the industry, while attracting or converting more students to this specialty. Strategies that received strong support from educators included:

- Recruiting/admissions strategies, including putting more emphasis on food animal careers at high schools and offering special incentives to those who choose the food animal career track, such as reserved class spots,

early admissions, scholarships, and mentoring/ shadowing programs with industry partners.

- Curriculum/financing strategies, including assigned faculty mentors, paid externships, heavier clinical caseloads, more hands-on experience early on, and legislation that forgives student loans for those who take a job in state.

- Industry image strategies, including creating regional centers of food animal medicine, improving business literacy within the profession, and shared curricula or rotational programs with partner colleges.

- Veterinary students who switched to a career focus in food supply overwhelmingly said it was because they were exposed to information about the specialty in veterinary school. More than 70 percent of educators said the main reason veterinary students choose a food animal sequence today is because they are attracted to the rural lifestyle and the prospect of working with animals, while only 6 percent choose it because they can make a positive impact on agriculture or food production.

A high percentage of both recent graduates (78 percent of young beef veterinarians and 80 percent of young dairy veterinarians) and senior alumni (92 percent for both beef and dairy veterinarians) are satisfied with their jobs and 90 percent of both groups are proud of their profession.

A copy of the Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition Report can be viewed on the Internet at www.avma.org. ●

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Dr. Beth Lautner Selected as NVSL Director

Saying that the new director of APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) "brings an impressive wealth of



Dr. Beth Lautner

knowledge and experience to this position," USDA APHIS Deputy Administrator Dr. John Clifford recently announced the selection of Dr. Elizabeth Lautner to the position.

Most recently, Lautner served as Center Director, Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) within the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She was the first DHS Center Director and served in that capacity from January 2004 until March 2006.

As Center Director, Lautner was responsible for administration and operations of the Center, a Biosafety Level 3 facility with a budget of \$50 million, and oversight of the DHS science program at the Center consisting of vaccine testing and evaluation and forensic capabilities for foreign animal diseases. She chaired the Senior Leadership Group which coordinated the on-site diagnostic and research programs and interactions for DHS, APHIS, and ARS. She served as the Executive Secretary for PIADC's Board of Directors which consists of DHS, APHIS, and ARS Administrators. In addition, she represented DHS on USDA's National Surveillance Steering Committee and National Veterinary Stockpile Committee.

Prior to joining DHS, Lautner served as Vice President for Science and Technology at the National Pork Board where she was responsible for a \$6 million budget that funded research and development on a variety of animal health and agricultural issues. In addition to these positions Lautner was a practicing veterinarian for more than 12 years in LeMars, Iowa.

Lautner received a BS degree and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University. She also has a MS degree from the University of Minnesota. Lautner is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA), and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV).

In 1994, she received the Howard W. Dunne Memorial Award for outstanding service to AASV and the pork industry. Lautner also received the APHIS Administrator's Award in 1997 in recognition of her contributions to the advancement of animal health. In 2002, she received the Meritorious Service Award from the National Institute for Animal Agriculture. In 2005, she received a DHS Under Secretary Award in recognition of her accomplishments in Program Management at PIADC.

Lautner began her duties on May 9.

Steve Larsen to Lead Pork Safety Initiatives at NPB

Steve Larsen has joined the National Pork Board to fill the position of director of pork safety.

Until recently, Larsen worked

as senior food technologist for Tyson Foods, Inc., where he was part of the company's food safety and Salmonella task forces. Larsen also participated in research and projects studying product shelf-life and food safety.

Larsen is a graduate of Iowa State University where he completed his bachelor's degree in animal science, a master's degree in meat science and a doctorate of philosophy in veterinary microbiology.

As director of pork safety, Larsen will be responsible for the development of implementation of pre-harvest pork safety programs including those related to preventing microbiological, physical and chemical hazards in pork. He will have oversight and administration of pre-harvest and post-harvest pork safety research efforts on the part of the Pork Checkoff.

Pork Producer Named NIAA Vice Chairman

Jon Caspers, a swine producer from Iowa representing the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), was chosen to be the vice chair-



Jon Caspers

man (chairman-elect) of the board of directors during the annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) in April.

Caspers will become chairman in two years, when the current board chairman, R. Scott Stuart, finishes his term. Caspers most recently served as NIAA's treasurer, is a past president of NPPC and an advocate for swine health issues.

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Jerry Torrison Presented 2006 Chairman's Award

Dr. Jerry Torrison, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, was presented with the Chairman's Award during the 2006 annual Meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture. The award recognizes NIAA's Volunteer of the Year.

In presenting the 2006 Award, the outgoing Chairman of the Board, Dr. R. L. "Rick" Sibbel, said, "Jerry Torrison has always been willing to be of great service to the association and the industry, has great people skills and great enthusiasm for all that he does."

Torrison is a past LCI (NIAA) committee leader and board member; a volunteer who served on the Annual Meeting Planning Group in 2005 and 2006; has assisted with the recruitment of new members during the past year, and currently serves as NIAA's representative to the AVMA Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee.

Keppy Named FSA Associate Administrator

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced the appointment of Glen Keppy to the post of associate administrator for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In this position, Keppy will oversee management of FSA farm and farm loan programs and commodity operations activities.

"Glen's expertise in agriculture will make him a valuable member of the USDA team," said Johanns. "I look forward to welcoming Glen, a fellow Iowa native, and I'm confident he will advance USDA's commitment of service to our farmers and ranchers."

Keppy and his family have owned and operated a diversified crop and livestock family farm in eastern Iowa for 34 years. He is a past president of the National Pork Producers Council and served on the board of directors of the U.S. Meat Export Federation up until the appointment.

New Director of NADC Named

Animal reproductive physiologist Kurt A. Zuelke is the new director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Disease Center (NADC) in Ames, Iowa, effective May 28.

ARS Administrator Edward B. Knipling said Zuelke, who for the past five years has served as research leader at the agency's Biotechnology and Germplasm Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., was officially appointed in April after a yearlong international recruitment process.

Knipling said Zuelke's recent research focused on discovering and understanding the molecular mechanisms that lead to early embryonic death in swine. Zuelke also oversaw research at Beltsville employing biotechnology to combat mastitis in dairy cattle. Scientists at the Biotechnology and Germplasm Laboratory have produced transgenic dairy cattle that secrete a novel antimicrobial protein in their milk that makes them resistant to mastitis caused by bacteria known as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Knipling added that Zuelke had ushered in a new era of functional genomics research at the Beltsville laboratory by pioneering the application of serial analysis of gene expression and proteomics—

known as SAGE—to improve the genetic, reproductive and productive efficiency of livestock and poultry.

Zuelke also led a partnership between four laboratories within ARS' Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center that established a world-class mass spectroscopy and proteomics facility devoted to animal and natural resources and to plant science.

Prior to serving with ARS, Zuelke was with the Victorian Institute of Animal Science in Attwood, Australia.

Zuelke, a native of Wisconsin, earned a B.S. in animal science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1984, and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota in 1988. Additionally, he earned a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Georgia-Athens in 1992.

NPPC Hires Science, Technology Director

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) has named Annamaria Castiglia as director of science and technology in its Washington, D.C., office.

"Annamaria brings to this position a wealth of knowledge on animal health issues and other science and technology matters that will be beneficial to the pork industry," said Kirk Ferrell, NPPC's vice president of public policy. "She's an experienced veterinarian, knows the animal agriculture industry and knows Capitol Hill. She will be an important addition to our office and a valuable asset to pork producers."

Most recently, Castiglia was a technical leader in the animal health field for DuPont. ●

USDA Proposes Changes to the Veterinary Accreditation Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to amend the regulations regarding the National Veterinary Accreditation Program to establish two accreditation categories in place of the current category, add requirements for supplemental training and renewal of accreditation, and offer accreditation specializations.

Under the proposed rule, Category I would authorize veterinarians to perform accredited duties on companion animals only. Veterinarians would be authorized to perform accredited duties on all species to include



poultry, equines and livestock under Category II. The new two-tiered system would replace the current structure under which an accredited veterinarian is authorized to perform accredited duties on all species.

APHIS is proposing these changes in order to support its animal health safeguarding initiatives, to involve accredited veterinarians in integrated surveillance activities and to make the provisions governing the National Veterinary Accreditation Program more uniform and consistent.

These proposed changes would increase the level of training and skill of accredited veterinarians in the areas of disease prevention and preparedness for

animal health emergencies in the United States.

Notice of this proposed rule was published in the June 1 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before July 31. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet, go to the Federal eRulemaking portal at www.regulations.gov and, in the "Search Regulations and Federal Actions" box, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu; then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2006-0093 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. ●

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IPVS Set to Convene in Copenhagen

The International Pig Veterinary Society (IPVS) will hold its 19th congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 16-19.

"For several decades, the IPVS congress has been a very important and much appreciated global event for swine practitioners, scientists and affiliates," said IPVS President Bent Nielsen.

A total of 2,400 delegates representing more than 50 countries attended the most recent IPVS congress, which was held in Hamburg, Germany in 2004. In 2002, the meeting was held in Ames, Iowa.

"The Danish IPVS committee is working hard to create a well-organized congress at a high scientific level," Nielsen said. The theme is 'Health, Welfare and Economy.'

Program and registration information is available on the Internet at www.ipvs2006.dk.

