



News Release

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A National Animal Agriculture Meeting Ideal for Collecting Information and Interacting with Industry Professionals

BOWLING GREEN, KY—Animal science students and veterinary medicine students interested in challenges and issues facing animal agriculture and animal agriculture's response to these issues are invited to the 2008 annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, April 1-3, in Indianapolis, Ind. **Student may register at a significantly reduced rate: \$25 for a one-day registration and \$75 for the entire three-day meeting.**

NIAA's 2008 annual meeting will embrace the theme **"Animal Care and Well-Being: Facts *Not* Fiction."** Opening general session speakers at the NIAA annual meeting will focus on three burning cross-species animal agriculture issue questions: What? So what? Now what?

"This meeting is an ideal time for animal science and veterinary medicine students to intermingle with producers, animal health and management professionals, animal agriculture extension specialists and other individuals involved in animal agriculture—cattle, equine, goats, poultry, swine, and sheep—and to attend an event where all animal agriculture species come together," states Dr. Jerome Geiger, chair of NIAA's Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

"Speakers and meeting attendees will zero in on real issues and perceived issues. We will sort facts from fiction and address issues impacting animal agriculture, the implication of these issues and what is being done or can be done to address the issues."

Setting the tone for NIAA's annual meeting will be Tuesday's opening general session, April 1, featuring four highly regarded, robust speakers: Dr. Wes Jamison, University of Florida, "Human-Animal Interaction: An Historical, Social and Political Perspective"; Dr. Ray Stricklin, University of Maryland, "Animal Care: Diverging Ethical Perspectives"; Steve Kopperud, Policy Directions Inc., "The U.S. Political Arena: On the Table and On the Horizon"; and Charlie Arnot, CMA Consulting, "Animal Care: Defining the Future."

NIAA's 12 species-based and issues-based committees will meet after the opening general session on Tuesday afternoon, April 1, and Wednesday, April 2. Committees are open to all attendees and will cover a variety of topics, including animal health emergency management, emerging diseases, animal health and international trade, animal well-being, animal production food safety and security, and animal identification and traceability.

Thursday, April 3, will be devoted to a one-day ID•INFO Workshop. A significant part of the workshop will center on USDA's business plan to advance disease traceability and formulating

strategies so the business plan can be successfully implemented.

"This is the animal agriculture industry's annual meeting and ID•INFO workshop and input from those involved in livestock, equine and poultry industries are invited and encouraged," Michele Vise-Brown, NIAA's Chief Executive Officer, stresses. "As our mission states, NIAA has a two-fold purpose: to provide forums for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages to animal agriculture professionals."

Help spread the word, attached is a flyer that you can post in your department or organization. A schedule of events for NIAA's annual meeting and the 2008 ID•INFO Workshop, meeting registration, list of NIAA committees and hotel information are available at the NIAA website: www.animalagriculture.org. Students are also welcome to call NIAA at (270) 782-9798.

NIAA's mission is to provide forums for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages to animal agriculture professionals. The Association is dedicated to programs which eradicate animal diseases, to promote safe and wholesome food at home and abroad, and to encourage best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well being. Its members include producers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials, and business executives. More information is available at www.animalagriculture.org.

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