

## **USAHA News Flash, January 8, 2008**

### **CALL TO ACTION**

The Veterinary Workforce Grant Program and the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment are not part of the House Version of the 2007 Farm Bill

### **Urgent Need for you to CONTACT SENATORS AND HOUSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

The Veterinary Medicine Workforce Grant Program (Section 11014) and the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Section 7003) are part of the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill passed in mid-December. The House version of the 2007 Farm Bill did not include these two important sections.

The nation's ability to protect and improve the health of food animal populations and maintain a safe and affordable food supply depends heavily on the inclusion of Sections 11014 and 7003 in the final 2007 Farm Bill.

Veterinarians and animal health stakeholders are urged to contact their members of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture emphasizing the need for protecting the health of our animal populations and the nation's food supply. Sections 11014 and 7003 in the Senate version will insure an adequate number of food animal veterinarians to provide this much needed first line of defense against animal disease and provide the necessary manpower to insure the safety of our food supply.

Now is the time to communicate the importance of Sections 11014 and 7003 prior to appointment of the Joint Conference Committee that will resolve the differences between the two versions of the Farm Bill. Since the House did not include these two Sections, it is critical that we make contact with House Members of the Committee on Agriculture to urge them to support the Veterinary Medicine Workforce Grant Program and the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment. Both the House and the Senate Committee on Agriculture members need to be encouraged to work with their colleagues as well as the Conference Committee to ensure these important Sections are part of the final 2007 Farm Bill.

The contact information for the members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and the House Committee on Agriculture can be accessed at <http://www.usaha.org/SenateHouseAgCommDirectory.pdf>. If you are unable to speak directly with the House or Senate member, ask to speak with the person in the office who is responsible for the Farm Bill.