

USAHA News Flash, January 10, 2008

**NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION LEADERS  
Support**

**THE SENATE VERSION OF THE 2007 FARM BILL**

**Section 11014**

**THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM**

**Section 7003**

**THE VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT**

Jim Leafstedt, President of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), stated that "veterinarians are a keystone of this nation's food supply. The food animal practitioner is the first line of defense against catastrophic disease events. USAHA has repeatedly demonstrated its support for the issues surrounding Sections 11014 and 7003 through its Resolution process. It is in the best interest of this nation's food supply that these two sections be included in the 2007 Farm Bill".

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Timothy Boosinger, President of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) recently was quoted "in 2005 the National Research Council of the National Academies called for the United States to build veterinary capacity through both recruitment and preparation of additional veterinary graduates into careers in food systems, biomedical research, diagnostic laboratory investigation, pathology, epidemiology, ecosystem, health and food animal practice".

Dr. Boosinger also noted that "in addition the National Academies called for competitive grants to be made available to scientists to upgrade equipment for animal disease research and to conduct and maintain government and university biosafety level 3 and 4 agriculture facilities for livestock, poultry and wildlife. Passage of a 2007 Farm Bill that includes Section 11014 and 7003 will help correct these veterinary health deficiencies identified by the National Academies".

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"The safety of our nation's food supply is in jeopardy," said W. Ron DeHaven, Executive Vice President of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). "As a result, American citizens will suffer the consequences unless action is taken. The Veterinary Workforce Grant Program and the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program in the 2007 Farm Bill will help ensure that there will be enough food supply veterinarians to protect the safety and quality of America's food supply."

Dr. DeHaven stated that "many people don't realize that veterinarians play a critical role in controlling disease and maintaining healthy populations of cattle, swine, poultry and other species. The burden lies with our country's leadership to take appropriate action to safeguard our nation's food supply. A good start would be to include Sections 11014 and 7003 in the final version of the 2007 Farm Bill".

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"We are seeing animal diseases emerge and re-emerge at an increasing rate, and more than 75% of these emerging diseases also affect humans," said Gregory S. Hammer, President of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). "When veterinarians address animal health issues, they are playing a critical role in protecting the health of people, too. Highly pathogenic avian influenza and mad cow disease are just two examples of animal diseases that have huge human health implications. The veterinary profession stands between these animal diseases and the public, manning the front lines of both human and animal health."

Dr. Hammer stated "it has been more than 30 years since the federal government has made any investment in veterinary education. You can help correct this error by contacting every member of the Conference Committee and asking them to support the continued inclusion of Sections 11014 and 7003 in the 2007 Farm Bill. Let's work together to help ensure the safety and security of America's food supply and the viability of our public health system".

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**U.S. veterinary medicine needs can be resolved by including  
Sections 11014 and 7003  
in the final version of the 2007 Farm Bill**

**There is an Urgent Need for you to  
Contact Senators and House Members of Congress**

Please contact key House and Senate members of Congress to ensure these important Sections 11014 and 7003 are included in 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 is available 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 agriculture assistant in the office who is responsible for the Farm Bill.