



USAHA Unveils Updated Committee Structure

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St. Joseph, MO -- The United States Animal Health Association is unveiling committee revisions for 2017, following an extensive process development for evaluation. The effort is a result of the organization's 2015 Strategic Plan looking at its committees to maintain an effective and efficient structure for USAHA's work. The changes are in effect as of June 1.

"The core of this initiative was to establish an objective, ongoing process for looking at committees and their work," says Dr. Boyd Parr, USAHA president, with Clemson Livestock and Poultry. "The executive committee and sitting presidents now should have a great tool in place for years to come."

USAHA has its roots back to 1897, dealing primarily with livestock diseases and commerce and over the years has expanded its scope into related areas including public health, animal welfare and wildlife interfaces.

"The guidance gives a framework for keeping USAHA at the forefront of an ever-evolving animal health landscape," adds Parr. "My predecessors have all experienced change in issues, resources and other variables that drive the work of USAHA, and we view this as the logical progression in that process."

The evaluation for this year has yielded some realignment of committees, and a mindset to better utilize subcommittees in addressing both new and longstanding issues. Parr adds that for the now, emphasis was placed on not compromising time during the annual meeting whenever possible.

"The expectation is that many of the subcommittees will operate as committees have in the past, just aligning their reporting through a parent committee," he says. "We're very appreciative of the feedback from our leadership, including our committee chairs, to reach this point."

Highlights of changes include:

- Committee on Cattle and Bison will be a parent committee for Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Johne's Disease, Trichomoniasis, and Bovine Viral Disease virus subcommittees
- Committee on Sheep, Goats, and Camelids now includes camelid issues, and will be a parent to the Subcommittee on Scrapie.
- Committee on One Health, newly formed, will be a parent for Subcommittees on Pharmaceutical Issues, Rabies, and Salmonella
- Committee on Interstate and International Commerce, newly formed, will be a parent committee for Livestock Identification and Global Animal Health and Trade (*formerly Import, Export, and International Standards*)
- Creation of the Committee on Farmed Cervidae
- Combination of the Committee on Wildlife and Captive Wildlife
- Committee on Animal Emergency Management is no longer a joint committee with AAVLD
- Committee on Environment & Toxicology is now exclusively an AAVLD committee.

Most other committees within USAHA will continue to operate as they have previously. Additionally, committee memberships will be updated to reflect existing rosters. Look for more information soon on ensuring your committee memberships are accurate.

For more information, contact USAHA at 816-671-1144 or usaha@usaha.org.

Quick Links:

- Committee Evaluation Guidelines: http://www.usaha.org/upload/Committee/2017_USAHA_Committee_Evaluation_.pdf
- 2017 Annual Meeting Tentative USAHA Schedule: <http://www.usaha.org/meeting-agenda>

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