



# USAHA

Protecting Animal and Public Health Since 1897

United States Animal Health Association Newsletter - Vol. 26, No. 4, December, 1999

OP-ED

## *It's Time for A "Misinformation Eradication Program" on Yellowstone Bison and Brucellosis*

### **John Shook Honored by USAHA and AAVLD**

*Excellence of service recognized at Annual Meeting in San Diego*

by Neal Black

John Shook, retiring secretary-treasurer of USAHA was honored at the opening general session of the annual meeting. Dr. Dick McCapes, president of USAHA and Dr. Doris Miller, president of AAVLD, presented Shook with a certificate recognizing his long service to the organization. Dr. Miller chaired the evening session.

The certificate expressed "profound gratitude for two decades of extraordinary excellence of service to both associations in the capacity as Secretary of USAHA beginning in 1979. Your leadership and dedication to liaison between the associations has been instrumental in strengthening the stature and renown of

both associations to accomplish their respective missions in the protection of animal and public health."

They also gave him a cherry wood mini-chest from the Williamsburg collection and filled it with cash gifts from the executive committees of both associations. In addition, staff from both associations provided a combined gift to Shook.

Prior to the presentations, Drs. Tom Hagerty and Harvey Gosser spoke of Dr. Shook's contributions to the USAHA and AAVLD respectively.

Shook later recalled: "All I wanted was about five minutes on the program to tell the people what a pleasure it has been to work with them. They completely surprised me with the presentations and by bringing my wife and youngest

*Page 6, Col. 1*



John Shook enjoying an evening of friendship and memories with his grandson

by Governor Marc Racicot, Montana

The controversy over brucellosis-infected bison from Yellowstone National Park is not a happy one for Montana. We cherish wildlife just as we cherish all our state's remarkable natural resources, and we do not enjoy being caught in the middle on this issue.



Governor Racicot

Members of USAHA know that to meet public health protection imperatives, America has been conducting a costly brucellosis-eradication program that continues to this day, after over 60 years and the expenditure of billions of dollars. Indeed, for more than several generations now, it is likely that a number of USAHA members have completed distinguished careers that were virtually consumed by the goal of ridding the nation of this disease, which is incurable in humans.

Your work on brucellosis eradication has been a major public health success. Gone now are the days when undulant fever was a significant public health problem. At this point, the bison

*Page 8, Col. 1*

## President's Corner

The meeting in San Diego was very successful by any gauge you use to measure. The attendance was higher than last year and the OIE session saw the largest audience ever to attend a scientific session. There were over 200 in attendance by actual count. The other special session on antimicrobial resistance was also well attended.



Ernie Zirkle

Dick McCapes should be very proud of his final meeting. It certainly capped off a very successful year. John Shook's retirement was very tastefully done and a fine tribute for all the years

of outstanding service he has given to USAHA. I wish him the best of health and happiness in retirement. I'm sure we will see him in Hershey in 2001.

There were several themes that were apparent throughout the meeting. Obviously, the OIE/International Trade theme is very much in the minds of all of us as we think about the future, whether it be directly from the prospects of opening up new trade channels or concerns for keeping out foreign diseases. Emergency preparedness was also a term often heard.

Concern for diseases of wildlife was also a widely discussed topic of interest this year. I have asked Bob Hillman to consider this as a scientific theme for next year in Birmingham.

On the organizational side, Bob Frost was nominated by the District-At-Large for the position of 3rd Vice President. The general membership voted by a majority of 2 to 1 to sustain Bob's nomination after Beth Lautner's name was proposed as a substitute from the floor. Bob represents the International Llama Association. I'm sure he will serve the allied organization group well.

There was one action by the Executive Committee that seemed innocuous at the time but I'm not sure all realized the significance of the action. We voted unanimously to recommend changing the Constitution and Bylaws giving the Executive Committee the power to change the dues structure of the organi-

*Page 12, Col. 1*

## San Diego a Great Place for Annual Meeting

### Terrific Program, Fabulous Weather Greet 991 Attendees

Close to 1,000 registrants, guests and spouses gathered at the Town and Country Resort Hotel in San Diego last October for the joint 103rd Annual Meeting of the USAHA and the 43rd Annual Meeting of the AAVLD.

San Diego and our California hosts rolled out the red carpet in the form of perfect weather. The hotel's generally outside format, including swimming pools, was greeted with enthusiasm by all.

For the first time, the duration of the annual meeting was shortened by one day for many USAHA members. Adjournment of the meeting was on Thursday at 10:00 a.m., rather than Friday at noon as in past years.

The shortened meeting repre-

sented the final implementation of Phase I of the new annual meeting schedule and format. And, for the first time, no oral committee reports were presented. Drafts of the reports were available for reading in the Press Room.



Terry Beals accepts APHIS Administrator's Award from Craig Reed

Forty-four resolutions were approved by the membership on a wide range of subject matter. The resolutions and committee reports

will be posted on the Association webpage ([www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org)).

The Joint USAHA/AAVLD General Session on Sunday evening, including the Presidents' Reception, was one of the highlights of the meeting. California Director of Agriculture Bill Lyons welcomed attendees and spoke of agriculture in California, the leading U.S. agricultural state.

Retiring Secretary/Treasurer John Shook was recognized for his many years of service to the Association as described by Neal Black in a separate article. A desert social in his honor followed the joint session.

Terry Beals, Texas State Veterinarian, was presented the APHIS Administrator's National Animal Health Award by Administrator Craig Reed, citing a lifetime of outstanding dedication and leadership in state, national and interna-

*Page 12, Col. 1*

# Officers for 1999/2000



From left, sitting: Bob Hillman, President-elect; Ernie Zirkle, President; Mike Chaddock, First Vice President; Mack Lea, Second Vice President; Dick McCapes, Immediate Past President; Wes Towers, Treasurer; J. Lee Alley, Secretary; Bob Frost, Third Vice President.

## Gov't Relations to Meet in Washington in February

The Government Relations Committee meeting has been scheduled for February 14-18, 2000, in Washington, D.C. Mike Chaddock, First Vice President, is planning the meeting.

Each year, the Committee spends a week in the nation's capital to meet with representatives of governmental agencies, legislative offices and allied organizations. The Committee is composed of USAHA's elected officers, the presidents of its five districts and the AVMA representative to the Association.

Chairs and Vice Chairs of all USAHA committees are also invited to attend.

Attendees will stay at the Carlye Suites Hotel (202) 234-3200. The cutoff date is January 24th. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Linda Ragland in the USAHA office.

## Reunion of Brucellosis Workers Announced

A reunion of individuals who have worked in the brucellosis eradication program is being planned in conjunction with the USAHA meeting, Oct. 19-26, 2000, in Birmingham, Ala. Initial plans were announced at the recent USAHA meeting in San Diego.

Tentative plans for the reunion include a meal. Anyone who has worked or had an interest in the brucellosis program is invited to attend. More information on organization and plans will be announced in the near future.

Claude Barton, vice-chairman of the brucellosis committee, is serving as coordinator, with others assisting in the various regions. Currently, active regulatory workers are urged to contact retired workers within their states and let them know about the reunion.

Dr. Barton has emphasized the

[www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org)  
webpage update

by Larry Mark,  
USAHA Webmaster, e-mail address:  
webmaster@usaha.org

Our USAHA web site keeps getting bigger and better. By the time you read this, the 1999 resolu-



Larry Mark

tions and most (hopefully all) of the 1999 committee reports will be online. Pat Campbell, who puts together the camera-ready copy for the proceedings, will be sending me additional papers and speeches and I'll be uploading these as I get them.

Our home page keeps getting more "hits" as we pass the 14,500 mark. Species Info is in second place with nearly 3,200-plus while Key Links is just a little behind, but gaining fast.

On that note, I'm trying to make our "Key Links" page the most valuable animal-health-related site on the Web. You can help me by passing along sites that you find useful in your work. Several of you mentioned possibilities at the recent San Diego meeting and, as a result, I've added several links that are quite interesting -- a description of various diseases from Australia, a list of more than 160 veterinary journals and a section that links to different sources of "agricultural news." Also, I'd like to expand our list of links under State sites. This would include animal health departments at state departments of agriculture as well as state diagnostic labs. Send your suggestions to webmaster@usaha.org.

I'd also like your feedback when you find a missing link. Your webmaster, unfortunately, isn't perfect. But the beauty of the Web is that I can fix mistakes quickly. Thanks in advance for your help.

## Three New Faces Added to Current Officer Ranks at San Diego

### Members endorse nominees with unanimous vote

by Dick McCapes

#### Third Vice President

Robert Frost, of Lincoln, California, was elected Third Vice President for 1999/2000. He was nominated by the District-At-Large.



Bob Frost

The DAL is composed of USAHA's allied organizations and elected regional delegates and is one of the Association's five districts. Every five years the DAL elects a nominee for the Third Vice President position. The nominee's name, in turn, is automatically placed on the Committee on Nominations slate of nominees for consideration by the general membership and the Executive Committee.

Bob is a nine year member of USAHA and an owner and producer of llamas. He has served for several years as the official representative of the International Llama Association to USAHA and has been active in several committees.

Frost won election as the DAL nominee against competing candidate Amy Mann, chair of the DAL and representative of the American Quarter Horse Association/American Horse Council.

The DAL election was held during the district's annual meeting in San Diego. Nancy Robinson, past DAL chair, presided over the election.

Two days later, during the the USAHA general membership, business meeting, Nancy Robinson moved to amend the Committee on Nominations slate of nominees by substituting Beth

Lautner's name for Frost's. Amy Mann seconded the motion. Lautner is a member of the DAL and represents the National Pork Producers Council.

Following extended discussion, including comments by Frost and Lautner, the general membership voted 65 to 30 to defeat the Robinson/Mann amendment. The members then endorsed the slate of nominees by a unanimous vote.

The slate was submitted to and accepted by the Executive Committee as part of the report of the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions. Acceptance constitutes election.

#### Secretary

J. Lee Alley, State Veterinarian for Alabama, was elected Secretary of the USAHA by the Executive Committee during the San Diego meeting.



J. Lee Alley

Alley is a long time member of the Association, served as president in 1992, and is currently Chair of the Committee on Brucellosis. He is the 17th secretary of the Association.

#### Treasurer

H. Wesley Towers, Jr., State Veterinarian for Delaware, was elected Treasurer of the USAHA during the San Diego meeting.



Wes Towers

Towers is a long time member of the Association and served as president in 1995.

During his term as President-Elect in 1994, Towers stepped in as acting-president for most of the year because of circumstances preventing the elected president from completing his term.

## Melcher Elected Honorary Member

Dr. John Melcher, of Washington, D.C. and former U.S. Senator from Montana, was elected an Honorary Individual Member of USAHA by the Executive Committee during the San Diego meeting last October.



John Melcher

The Board of Directors' letter proposing Melcher's name, cited his continuing valuable advice to the Association on governmental relations and our country's legislative system.

It also noted his extraordinary personal undertaking to hand deliver the Association's June 1999 letter regarding the Yellowstone brucellosis issue, to the White House, the Secretary of the Inter-

*Page 10, Col. 1*

## Knighthood for Riemann

Hans Riemann, USAHA member and professor emeritus of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, was knighted by the Danish government in a ceremony on the Davis campus on October 18, 1999.



Hans Riemann

In Denmark, a constitutional monarchy, Queen Margrethe II confers the honor of knighthood to recognize meritorious service and contributions to science, art, business or other areas of Danish life.

Danish colleagues brought Riemann's accomplishments to the government's attention by citing life-long dedication to the veteri-

*Page 10, Col. 1*

# National Institute for Animal Agriculture Ready to Emerge in 2000

Bolling Geen, KY

After months of preparing for the transition of the century, leaders of the Livestock Conservation Institute are ready to begin operating in a new era of agriculture. Five incorporators met on September 15 and signed articles of incorporation creating the National Institute for Animal Agriculture. The new organization will begin operations on January 1, 2000.

Serving as incorporators of the new organization were: Thomas W. Wenstrand, chairman of the board, Richard D. Hull, vice chairman of the LCI board, Richard E. Breitmeyer, chairman of the LCI Vision 2000! Task Force, Neil V. Anderson, LCI treasurer, and James E. Stocker, LCI board member.

According to the articles of incorporation, the purpose of the new



From left: R. Breitmeyer, J. Stocker, W. Wenstrand, R. Hull, N. Anderson at signing of articles of incorporation organization will include:

- to engage in and promote educational programs and materials which purposes are to advance animal agriculture,
- to provide a forum among organizations, allied industries, researchers and individuals for the

purposes of building consensus, and advancing solutions,

- to correlate, coordinate and disseminate data and information relative to animal agriculture, and
- to provide continuing education and communication linkages for animal agriculture professionals.

A business plan, currently being developed, will articulate the organization's purposes and areas of emphasis in greater detail.

The new organization is the result of a visioning process that began in 1996 when the LCI board of directors commissioned a long range planning team to landscape an organization that will best serve animal agriculture in the next quarter century and beyond.

After completing its work, the

*Page 10, Col. 2*

## “Buck” Sharman Passes Away

Dr. Euclid Curtis “Buck” Sharman, 70, retired veterinarian with the USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services, died on October 22 in Albany, Georgia.

Dr. Sharman retired from Veterinary Services in 1987 after a distinguished 37-year career with USDA. He was assistant deputy administrator for emergency programs at retirement.

Buck was a native of LaGrange, Ga. and received his DVM degree from Auburn University in 1953.

Survivors include his wife Sally and a brother, Dr. J. Harold Sharman, of Albany. Memorial contributions in Buck's name may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Association, PO 75004, Seattle, WA 98125.

Please see USAHA's webpage for additional information ([www.usaha.org-bulletinboard](http://www.usaha.org-bulletinboard)).

## Prevalence of Selected Diseases of Llamas and Alpacas

by Murray E. Fowler, DVM  
Davis, California

Llamas and alpacas are sizable alternate livestock industries in North America. Although minor compared with the cattle and sheep industries, 19,052 owners are listed in the International Llama Registry's (ILR) files in the United States and 1,035 in Canada. There are 126,750 registered llamas in the United States. The number of alpacas in North America is 22,931. The foregoing numbers do not account for the many llamas that are not registered. There is reason to believe that there are more than 200,000 animals in North America.

Since camelids are not species considered in most veterinary schools, there is a general lack of

background information on them and they become suspect as being potential carriers of disease agents, primarily because camelids are thought to be ruminants and subject to the various ruminant ailments. This is not true. Camelids are in the Suborder, Tylopoda in the Order Artiodactyla and ruminants are in another Suborder, Ruminantia. While both groups may be subject to similar diseases, it has been found that the susceptibility to certain disease agents is markedly different. The prevalence of a given disease in populations that co-habitate together may be entirely different.

The objective of the paper was to report on the occurrence of selected diseases on the basis of re-



Murray Fowler

*Page 11, Col. 2*

### John Shook honored

from page 1

son and his family to the meeting. It wasn't what I expected, but it was great fun."

The organization was also expressing its appreciation to Shook for long service as fiscal watchdog of the organization. He started attending annual meetings in the early '60's when he became chief of the meat hygiene division of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. He served as president of USAHA in 1972.

As Shook tells it: "When Bill Bendix, long-time secretary-treasurer and sole staff member of the organization, wanted to ease up and spend 6 months of the year in Florida, a few of the leaders of the organization got together in a hotel room and told me they wanted me to take over the position of treasurer and be the watchdog of the organization while Bendix was in Florida." He's filled that role of watchdog continually to the present, assuming the title of secretary as well in 1978.

Shook recalls that the organization has gone through tough financial periods from time to time when projects had to be put off and bill payments delayed, but it has never been close to bankruptcy. He made sure of that.

His other role in the organization has been to provide the institutional memory for a group that changes its leadership every year. He's poured oil on troubled waters many times when battles got hot among the members or with other groups. Working with 20 different presidents during those years, he's seen "some presidents who didn't do anything and some who took everything on themselves."

Shook recalled that the annual meetings, particularly of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, have mellowed over the years. "In the early years the state veterinarians would roll up their sleeves and loosen their ties and really go at it, the meetings would get pretty wild." In



Doris Miller presiding over the Joint USAHA/AAVLD Session Harvey Gosser and Tom Hagerty speaking of John Shook's contributions to AAVLD and USAHA



Doris Miller presents USAHA/AAVLD certificate of gratitude to John Shook Dick McCapes presents cherry wood, mini-chest to John Shook as Harvey Gosser places a cash contribution in it from AAVLD



Above: John Shook addresses general session and with family. Below: Cake and ice cream social followed general session where the engraved Williamsburg collection mini-chest and certificate of gratitude presented to Shook were on display.





those days National Assembly meetings were closed and only state veterinarians were permitted to attend. At his first USAHA meeting, Shook started to walk into the room where the National Assembly was meeting, but was stopped at the door and required to identify himself.

"I've made a lot of friends and my association with USAHA is the high point of my career," Shook said.

*The dedicated life is the life worth living.*  
*Annie Dillard*

**Attendees enjoying the President's Reception prior to attending Joint USAHA/AAVLD General Session**

## Governor Racicot

from page 1

herd in Yellowstone constitutes the last major bastion of brucellosis, the nation's only remaining source of a significant threat of renewed disease transmission. A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that when bison cross the Park's borders and enter Montana, they pose precisely this risk, both to cattle as well as to domesticated bison that range nearby.

USAHA members understand keenly the nuances of federal disease-control laws and regulations, and the role that all states are both legally and scientifically bound to fulfill. Regulations dictate what states must do to prevent, control and eradicate particular diseases, and, because of the scientific realities of how diseases like brucellosis spread, the law gives every state veterinarian the power to sanction or impose special import requirements on livestock from other states. This is the source of one of Montana's continuing concerns. With agriculture our state's single largest industry, and with our brucellosis-free status having taken over 50 years and \$30 million to achieve, we cannot afford to risk either the loss of this disease-free status or the possibility of sanction by other states.

Montana is caught in the middle. On the one hand, the Park Service follows a "natural regulation" policy that allows the bison herd to propagate to the point where the Park's forage resources often cannot support the bison during winter -- so the bison leave the Park and enter Montana. On the other hand, federal disease control regulations administered by U.S.D.A. do not permit brucellosis-exposed bison to roam freely within our state.

When I first became Governor in 1992, the Park Service had been attempting for years to solve the problem by using the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to develop a long-term bison management plan. Assurances that the

EIS would be completed as soon as possible had been repeated regularly, but no progress on an EIS had been made. That's why I decided to authorize litigation to be brought against the federal government in 1995 to force the Park Service to keep its promises. Under the court's oversight since then, Montana has been a co-lead agency in the development of what we hope will become a long-term plan of productive action.

In the meantime, Montana follows to the letter the terms of a federal-state interim agreement on bison management. Contradicting the shrill rhetoric of protest that we often hear from some interest groups, the Federal Courts have twice reviewed this interim management agreement and concluded that it allows Montana to protect more bison than otherwise, while also preventing the risk of disease transmission.

Under the interim agreement, Montana works to herd errant bison back into the Park whenever possible. When herding is not practicable, we endeavor to capture and test the bison so that those that pose no unacceptable risk can be turned loose to graze safely in Montana for the winter. Those that test positive or that present a high risk of disease are sent to slaughter, and the meat is donated to charities. Only when bison cannot be herded back in the Park, and cannot be captured, does Montana resort to the grim task of using lethal means to control brucellosis risks.

Over the last few years, we have protected literally hundreds of bison by following this management policy, and we have avoided the risk of disease transmission. Today, the Yellowstone bison herd approaches an all-time high in numbers, higher than recognized scientists believe the Park can support, and far higher still than the threshold above which sizable numbers of bison tend to emigrate in a typical winter.

The good news is that no matter what happens, the bison herd's

*Page 9, Col. 1*

### "Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area"

The National Research Council identified current research and reviewed previous research concerning brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area so that science could be melded with policy to resolve many of the difficult issues facing the governmental parties involved in brucellosis management in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

The Department of the Interior contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for the National Research Council to study brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

National Academy Press  
Washington, D.C.  
(202) 334-3313  
www.nap.ed  
186 pages

### "Draft environmental impact statement for the Interagency Bison Management Plan for the state of Montana and Yellowstone National Park"

The purpose of the proposed interagency action is to maintain a wild, free-ranging population of bison and address the risk of brucellosis transmission to protect the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry in the State of Montana.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, were the lead agencies. The State of Montana is the state lead agency. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was a cooperating agency.

U.S. Department of the Interior,  
National Park Service  
NPS D-655/May 1998  
395 pages

## Governor Racicot

from page 8

long-term viability and genetic integrity are completely assured. The bad news is that until the federal government eradicates brucellosis in this herd, as has been done with bison at other refuges and facilities -- until we develop and adopt a real solution to the core problem -- it is very possible that Montana's conundrum will continue.

Meanwhile, most Americans have forgotten about undulant fever and don't know that a National Brucellosis Eradication Program ever occurred, much less that it continues still in force. As a partial consequence, the scientific and regulatory complexities of the Yellowstone bison issue are all too easily overridden by the kind of inflammatory rhetoric that increasingly pollutes public debate about environmental policies.

News media can confound and exacerbate this challenge. Recently, for example, a nationally circulated magazine carried a major story on the Yellowstone bison controversy which condemned Montana for policies we literally have never had; which failed to explain that Montana's lawsuit against the federal government sought only to force it to keep its long-standing promises; and which purported to explain the bison situation without ever even mentioning the existence, much less the regulatory realities, of the National Brucellosis Eradication Program.

Reasonable people may well disagree about this subject and its preferred solutions. But our democracy and its public decision-making processes suffer egregiously when people don't receive enough accurate information to allow the debates to be productive rather than divisive. This greatly adds to the challenge faced by those of us who make and implement public policy, and this, too, USAHA members surely understand better than most.

## USAHA Agrees To Review Yellowstone Brucellosis Plan



From left - Glenn Plumb, Craig Reed, Arnold Gertonson, Alfonso Torres, Wayne Brewster, Marc Bridges, Keith Aune, J. Lee Alley. Taking photo: Dick McCapes

### *Montana's request leads to invitation to attend meeting in Helena, MT*

by Dick McCapes

The United States Animal Health Association has agreed to review a plan to combat widespread brucellosis infection in bison in Yellowstone National Park after agreement is reached by involved parties. Montana officials requested the USAHA review.



Capitol Building, Helena, Montana

A proposed plan, contained in the document, "Memorandum Annotating Federal Proposed Modified Preferred Alternative for the Interagency Bison Management Plan, July 7, 1999," was put forward by Craig Reed, APHIS Administrator, at a meeting in Helena, Montana, on September 16, 1999. The meeting was organized by APHIS.



From left - J. Lee Alley, Dick McCapes, Governor Marc Racicot, Arnold Gertonson Taking photo: Paul Sihler

Representing USAHA at the Helena meeting were Dick McCapes, then president, and J. Lee Alley, Chair of the Committee on Brucellosis; Craig Reed, APHIS Administrator; Alfonso Torres, APHIS Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services; Marc Bridges, Executive Officer, Montana Department of Livestock; Arnold Gertonson, Monta-

na State Veterinarian; Keith Aune, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Genn Plumb, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Yellowstone National Park; and Wayne Brewster, Deputy Director, Yellowstone Center for Resources, Yellowstone National Park.

The Helena meeting identified five actions necessary to modify

## Reunion

from page 3

fact that this should not be misconstrued as a celebration of national brucellosis class free status since that is yet a ways off. Rather, it should be a time to renew friendships and acquaintances, enjoy the fellowship, and share experiences from what has been a long and difficult endeavor.

Dr. Barton's phone number is (615) 833-0729 and his E-mail address is cbarton@aol.com.

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## Melcher Honorary Member

from page 4

ior, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chair and Ranking member of several House and Senate Committees. This has been of invaluable service to our campaign seeking resolution of this problem.

With his election, Dr. Melcher becomes the Association's only Honorary Member.

Many thanks, John, for your guidance and welcome aboard!

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## Riemann Knighthood

from page 4

nary medical profession, particularly food animal health and food safety research. He received his veterinary and doctorate degrees from the University of Copenhagen and subsequently joined the University of California, where he continues active research.

Consul General Martin Kofod, based in Los Angeles, presented Riemann with an emblem and congratulatory remarks on behalf of Queen Margrethe II. The badge of the Order of the Dannebrog is a white- and red-enamelled Dannebrog cross.

Hans, a member of USAHA for many years, served as the founding Vice Chair of the Committee on Feed Safety through 1998.

Congratulations, Sir Hans!

## NIAA

from page 5

Vision 2000 Task Force submitted five recommendations to the LCI board of directors: broaden the membership of the organization to encompass the full spectrum of animal agriculture; develop a business plan to enhance services and revenue; review committee structure to address prominent issues facing animal agriculture; review current organizational structure including articles and bylaws; and change the name of the organization.

On April 1, 1999, LCI members boldly embraced the recommendations of the task force and approved the formation of a new organization. The new organization will provide a modern corporate structure that will be more efficient and responsive. Its scope will be broadened to include all segments of the animal agriculture industry, including those not traditionally served by LCI.

The modern organizational structure features a 15 member board, much smaller than the 48 member LCI board. Term limits have also been added.

The incorporators appointed an initial board of directors to serve until the organization's first meeting. At that time, a new board of directors will be elected by the membership on staggered terms. The meeting is scheduled for April 10-14, 2000, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

More emphasis will be placed on committee operations, including working groups and task forces. To facilitate this objective, staff resources will be designated for this activity and committee leaders will likely participate in the organization's budgeting process.

The new organization will continue to address many of the same issues as LCI, such as animal health matters, animal care and handling, and food safety, but also encompass emerging issues, such as those surrounding trade and biotechnology.

LCI members authorized the merger of LCI into the new corporation, action that will be completed on December 31, 1999. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture will then emerge onto the landscape.

## Book Reviews

by Dick McCapes

**"Business@The Speed of Thought: Using A Digital Nervous System,"** by Bill Gates and published by Warner Books.

If you are interested in a truckload of information on how internet and digital technology are being used to revolutionize business practices and efficiency today and in the near future, you just have to read this book.

Bill Gates & Collins Hemingway have written a very readable, thought provoking, how-to-do-it book.

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**"The Coffee Companion: The Connoisseur's Guide to the World's Best Brews,"** by Jon Thorn and published by Running Press Books; and **"The Book of Coffee,"** by Francesco and Riccardo Illy and published by Abbeville Press.

It occurred to me one morning awhile back, as I was savoring the umpteenth thousandth cup of coffee of my lifetime, that I knew absolutely nothing about this wonderful, dark, aromatic, satisfying liquid so essential to my day.

These two informative books changed all that and have provided a pleasant understanding of one of life's true passions ... seeking the perfect cup of coffee.

A word of caution. Enlightened with this knowledge, you will likely become stubbornly steadfast in seeking out coffee house establishments wherever you are. This zeal is not uniformly appreciated.

If you are a coffee drinker, you'll enjoy these books. Highly recommended.

## USAHA

"USAHA" is published by the United States Animal Health Association, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 203, PO Box K227, Richmond, VA 23288; (804) 285-3210 office; (804) 285-3367 fax; www.usaha.org; (e-mail) usaha@usaha.org

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**USAHA asked to review  
Yellowstone Brucellosis Plan**  
from page 9

the proposed plan prior to further consideration by the parties. USAHA offered to have its Committee on Brucellosis review the modified plan after there is a consensus on the modifications. The Association also recommended that Idaho and Wyoming be consulted on the modified plan prior to submitting it to the USAHA committee.

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*To date, the federal agencies involved have not brought forth a modified plan ...*

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The proposed plan was further discussed at a September 29th meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, between officials of the State of Montana and the involved federal agencies. To date, the federal agencies involved have not brought forth a modified plan agreed to by all parties that could be reviewed by USAHA.

The plan presented by Reed at the Helena meeting concentrates on bison management practices necessary to eliminate the spread of infection from brucellosis-infected park bison to brucellosis-free cattle in neighboring Montana. Contact between infected park bison and non-infected cattle can occur when bison move out of the park boundaries onto cattle grazing land during the winter.

Vaccination of park bison is also proposed. The spread of bison infection to Montana's brucellosis-free cattle industry would severely affect the state's economy. There are also public health implications as human brucellosis, also known as undulant fever, can be acquired through contact with brucellosis infected animals.

Following the Helena meeting, McCapes, Alley and Gertonson met with Montana's Governor Marc Racicot and Paul Sihler, Administrative Officer, Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and

Parks. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss USAHA's organizational structure and the process the Association would follow in the review of the proposed plan.

In a related forum, the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee, chaired by Bob Hillman, USAHA President-elect, is nearing completion of a strategic plan, including budget, for the control of brucellosis in the entire Greater Yellowstone area.

Note: Excerpts from a USAHA 10/4/99 press release, developed by Larry Mark, were used in this article.

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**Llama and Alpaca**  
from page 5

turns from a questionnaire sent to 37 diagnostic laboratories that are members of the AAVLD. The purpose of sending the questionnaire was to see if it is possible to establish prevalence figures for certain diseases in North America. Also, a computer search was instituted to determine the number of cases reported from the published world literature.

The laboratories were asked to respond by listing the number of cases in llamas, alpacas, guanacos and camels and by what method the disease was confirmed, (culture, PCR, histopathology). Serologic responses were listed separately. We received 22 replies from laboratories, a fifty nine-percent response. All regions of the country were represented and two laboratories from Canada responded. Sample submissions were generally handled by laboratories as if they were samples from cattle. For confirmed diagnoses, this is of no consequence; however, serologic evidence may or may not be valid because most of the serologic tests have not been validated for use in camelids.

**Literature Search**

A thorough, but not exhaustive, search of the literature was conducted by a reference librarian at the University of California, Davis. The databases searched included CAB, BIOSIS and Med-

line for all years and in all languages. Over 100 references were found dealing with these diseases, primarily in the United States and South America.

**Individual Diseases**

The diseases of primary concern to USAHA members included rabies (6 cases in North America); foot-and-mouth disease (no cases in U.S., only a few in South America); vesicular stomatitis (one case in US); bluetongue (no clinical cases anywhere in the world); bovine tuberculosis (4 cases in North America); Johne's disease (6 cases in North American llamas, 33 alpacas in Australia) and bovine brucellosis (no cases anywhere in the world).

The other diseases listed in the questionnaire were bovine virus diarrhea (serologic evidence, only one or two clinical cases), equine herpesvirus type I (one outbreak in US), giardiasis, leptospirosis, human tuberculosis, avian tuberculosis, ovine brucellosis, caseous lymphadenitis and chlamydiosis. Insignificant numbers of these diseases were reported from llamas and alpacas.

**Conclusions**

Even though this is a preliminary study, it seems apparent from the results of the survey and a perusal of the literature that the diseases mentioned have an extremely low prevalence among camelids. Bovine brucellosis and probably bluetongue do not occur as clinical diseases. Camelids are not a reservoir or carriers of any of the diseases listed above. There are no reports of the spread of any of the afore-mentioned diseases to any other species. When exposed to some of the above-listed diseases, camelids may mount an immune response without developing clinical disease (FMD, VS, BVD and bluetongue). Camelids are not of zoonotic concern for any of the foregoing diseases.

(Summary of a paper presented at USAHA 1999)

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**President's Corner**

from page 2

zation. This was passed when the Board of Directors proposed a specific amount of increase for 2001. We had asked for an increase to carry out the long-range-plan and to provide for the hiring of a half-time Executive Director. The language approved, "the Board shall have the power to determine the amount of dues," for USAHA is the language that the Constitution and By-laws Review Committee currently has drafted for Article III, Membership.

I personally support the language change recommendation and am mentioning it here to clarify how the language came about and how it will eventually fit the Bylaws. This change will have to be voted on again by the Executive Committee and general membership in 2000 to become effective for the hiring of a half-time Executive Director early in 2001. It will be part of the Constitution and Bylaws changes that will be presented to the Executive Com-

mittee for action in Birmingham and will then have to be finally approved again in 2001.

I met with the new Secretary, J. Lee Alley and Treasurer, Wes Towers, along with Dick McCapes and spent three days in Richmond reviewing their new duties and roles in the organization. Dick will be serving as Executive Director on a pro-bono basis for 1999 – 2000 and his continued assistance will be a great asset to our organization. While there, in addition to the specific duties, we met with the accountant and computer ser-



Left: Ernie Zirkle, J. Lee Alley and Wes Towers confer in Richmond, VA after San Diego meeting

vice providers to assure familiarity with these functions as well.

Several large packets of draft information from OIE have been received and are being disseminated to appropriate people. Bruce Akey is distributing the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines to appropriate AAVLD members. Turn around times are short but we will have input and hopefully when the office in VS is set up with a full time person in charge, the whole OIE process will function more smoothly.

mittee, is as follows:

- Hire a half-time Executive Secretary during 2001 at a salary of \$30,000 and a total expense of \$58,000.
- Increase 2001 annual dues and fees: Individual dues, from \$75 to \$100; Official agency and allied organizations dues, from \$300 to \$600; Annual meeting registration (including \$30 President's reception charge) for members from \$180 to \$220 and for non-members from \$200 to \$240.

It is estimated this would provide \$73,000 in excess revenues over current level of expenses in 2001 to cover the costs of the new position.

- Appoint a volunteer, non-salaried Secretary for 1999/2000 to guide the Association through the transition period leading to the hir-



Jones Bryan presents President's plaque and key to Dick McCapes

ing of an Executive Secretary. Expenses to be paid by the Association.

- Past President Dick McCapes will continue to provide support to mutually agreed areas of the transition if deemed necessary. Expenses to be paid by the Association.

- Separate the Secretary and Treasurer positions in 1999.

- Move to hire a full-time Executive Secretary as soon as we can afford to do so.

At the last Business Section, Past President Jones Bryan presented outgoing President Dick McCapes with the traditional gold key and plaque.

**San Diego Meeting**

from page 2

tional animal health programs.

Ralph Knowles, Rehoboth Beach, Del., was awarded the National Assembly Award by Maxwell Lea, Louisiana State Veterinarian and President of the National Assembly. Knowles was recognized for his outstanding contributions to U.S. animal health in the regulatory field.

The 1999 recommendations of the Board of Directors to the Executive Committee pertaining to the USAHA long-range-plan were a topic of discussion in the five Dis-



Ralph Knowles accepts National Assembly Award from Mack Lea

trict meetings and in the Business Section of the General Session. A synopsis of the recommendations, accepted by the Executive Com-

*Change is the only evidence of life.*  
Evelyn Waugh