



# USAHA

Protecting Animal and Public Health Since 1897

United States Animal Health Association Newsletter - Vol. 27, No. 2, July, 2000

## Office of International des Epizooties Meets

### USAHA President Elect Reports On Paris Deliberations

Bob Hillman  
USAHA President Elect

The 68th meeting of the Office International des Epizooties was held in Paris, France from May 22-26, 2000 at the OIE headquarters. This year is the fourth year that a representative of the USAHA has had an opportunity to attend the OIE meeting as a member of the USDA delegation. The opportunity to attend the meeting as an observer provides the insight and background necessary for USAHA to begin developing strategy to address diseases and conditions of importance to animal agriculture in the United States.

It is important for us to keep in mind that OIE is one of the three bodies that serve as standard setting bodies for the World Trade Organization. The OIE sets the standards for international trade in animals and animal products.

The following is a brief report



Bob Hillman

of major events and topics that were discussed.

**Health Status of Member Countries** - This was reported based upon annual reports submitted to OIE by the members. OIE has 155 members. Only 118 countries submitted an annual report, of that 102 reports were from member countries and 16 were from countries that are not members of OIE. The failure to report was criticized by several member countries. The Health Status report consists of a report on the occurrence of List A and List B diseases and a report on significant diseases that are not

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## Canada/U.S. Research Initiative

by Bob Frost  
USAHA Third Vice President  
California llama producer

A historic meeting of Canadian and United States animal disease officials took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in March 2000. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate dialog between the two countries and establish collaboration between various agencies in Canada and United States concerning animal health research.



Bob Frost

Dr. Norman Willis, the executive director of the Canadian Science Center for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH), offered the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) component of this facility in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, to host this first cooperative international meeting on diseases in camelids.

The CSCHAH is the only maximum biocontainment laboratory (BSL-4) in the world, which has been specifically designed for both human and animal diseases. Dr. Bill Sterritt, acting director of

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## President's Corner

It seems like only yesterday that we were wrapping up the meeting in San Diego and strategizing for the coming year's activities. Now that the year is two-thirds gone, I'm beginning to wonder where the time went.



Ernie Zirkle

I have attended the four regional meetings and found them to be as varied as the geography they represent. The Western

States Animal Health Association, hosted in Reno, Nevada, was given over largely to the issues raised by brucellosis in Yellowstone National Park and the plight Montana faced with the withdrawal of USDA from the long-standing

cooperative agreement. Several letters and resolutions were generated concerning this issue.

The Northeast USAHA met in Bar Harbour, Maine, and had a one-day meeting on John's disease, a concurrent meeting on rabies with emphasis on wildlife and then one and one-half days of general business. There were several resolutions on John's and one on salmon infectious anemia. The group selected Don Lein to be their nominee for 3rd Vice President of USAHA, thus departing from their tradition of selecting a State Veterinarian.

The North Central Animal Health Association met independently from NIAA (LCI) for the first time recently, in Columbus, Ohio. The main issue discussed here was the occurrence of tuberculosis in cattle and white tailed

deer in Michigan and the reaction of neighboring states as evidenced by restrictions imposed on Michigan cattle.

The Southern Animal Health Association was hosted in Oklahoma City and featured pseudorabies in feral swine and Florida's approach to tick species found in tortoise in quarantine centers there. It is interesting that in each region there were major issues centered around the wildlife/domestic livestock interface. These issues should be a topic for a scientific session in Birmingham this fall.

At these meetings I repeated some of the things I stated in the last issue about the lack of progress in the emergency preparedness efforts of Veterinary Services since the publication of

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## USAHA Allied Organization News

### The National Cattlemen's Beef Association: Who are We?

by Gary Weber  
Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) involvement with the United States Animal Health Association dates back decades to our roots as the National Cattlemen's Association. The USAHA represents a unique opportunity for animal health professionals to help the cattle industry achieve our goals.

While you all know something about the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, you are probably not aware of the true scope

of the organization. I want to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the organization as well as an invitation for you to join!

In 1996, NCBA was formed as a result of a producer-driven merger of the National Cattlemen's Association and the National Livestock and Meat Board. The new organization was designed to represent one voice for the cattle industry. The vision statement for the organization sums it up: "*A dynamic and profitable beef industry, which concentrates resources around a unified plan, consistently meets consumer needs and increases demand.*"

The NCBA has two divisions, the Checkoff and Dues Divisions. Checkoff programs provide marketing, promotion and research to benefit beef cattle producers and

are influenced by State Beef Councils who meet during the NCBA conventions, which occur twice a year. The 1 million cattle producers in the United States contribute \$1 toward the Checkoff each time an animal is sold. The Dues Division is influenced by State Affiliates and their more than 230,000 members. The resources of the Dues Division are focused on establishing policies that improve the consumer and business climates of the industry.

There are significant procedural systems in place to effectively separate the Checkoff and Dues efforts to ensure the actions of the NCBA are consistent with the federal legislation that established the Checkoff. No Checkoff funds can be used to lobby Congress.

The NCBA has an office in

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## Wildlife Authority



by John Melcher  
Former U.S. Senator, Montana  
Consultant to AVMA Govt. Relations Div.

You may have heard, as I did, this statement: "APHIS never has had authority over wildlife."



John Melcher

The veterinarians I talked to here in the Government Relations Division or in USAHA thought the statement was false, but it did motivate me to get the response of the USDA General Counsel's office. Their lawyers are career professionals and are expert in the laws pertaining to USDA functions.

Dr. Tom Walton, Associate

Deputy Administrator of APHIS Veterinary Services, agreed to a meeting for Dr. Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator of APHIS, and the specific General Counsel attorneys who work with and advise APHIS on legal questions. At that meeting last month, Dr. Finnegan and I posed the question of the authority of APHIS over wildlife and their answer was;—Based on animal quarantine laws dating back to the early 1880's and modified and amended by subsequent statutes enacted since then, APHIS has authority over wildlife infected with, or are carriers or vectors of a disease contagious to livestock or poultry.

In the case of infected wild-

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## Jim Pearson's OIE Report

by Jim Pearson, Head  
Scientific and Technical Department  
Office International des Epizooties, Paris

Dr. McCapes asked me to share some of my experiences as a member of the staff of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). As reported in the USAHA Newsletter last summer, I joined the OIE last August as Head of the Scientific and Technical Department. I will discuss my position

and some decisions made at the OIE International Committee General Session held from 22 to 26 May 2000 and I will add some comments on living in Paris. I should point out that I am here as an employee of the OIE and I, like all senior staff of the OIE, have signed an agreement that we will not represent any country. Dr. Zirkle provided a good summary of the OIE in the August 1999 Newsletter and I will try to not repeat what he said.

The OIE has four Departments—the other three are Information and International Trade, Publications, and Administrative and Financial. The Department Heads report to the Director General who is Dr. J. Blancou. The total staff of the OIE Central Bureau is 31 people. The four Specialist Commissions, three Working Groups and a number of Ad hoc Groups carry out much of the work of the OIE. These Commissions and Groups are made up of experts from OIE member countries.

The Scientific and Technical Department coordinates the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Other Epizootics, the Standards, and the Fish Disease Commissions

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## USAHA Membership

by J. Lee Alley, USAHA Secretary

Membership is the lifeblood of all effective organizations. Membership numbers are important to an organization's ability to affect state and federal policy discussion and to accomplish its mission.



J. Lee Alley

Currently, USAHA has 974 members that have paid their 2000 dues. This membership includes 746 individual members, 26 allied organization members, 50 state official members, the United States, Canadian and Mexican governments, 8 required delegates, and 141 life members. One hundred twenty-three 1999 individual members have not paid their 2000 dues. We have 44 new individual members that have joined the association

this year.

USAHA is a unique organization in that it provides the forum for communication and coordination among state and federal governments, universities, industry and other groups on issues of animal health and disease eradication and prevention, animal welfare, food safety and public health. Through its membership, USAHA has the abilities to develop solutions to animal health and public health issues based on good science, new information and methods and public policy risk-benefit analysis.

Please visit with your colleagues and co-workers regarding the benefits of USAHA membership and encourage them to join the association. A new membership brochure is being developed and will soon be available to aid in recruiting new members. Copies of the brochure can be obtained through the Richmond office.

# USAHA Regional Meetings

## North Central

R. David Glauer, President  
North Central Animal Health Association &  
David Schmitt, Asst. State Veterinarian, Iowa

The NCAHA mid-year meeting was held in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Industry on May 17-18, 2000. Dr. Dave Glauer, the current NCAHA President served as host for the meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives of the member states, federal personnel and special guests including Dr. Craig Reed, USDA-APHIS Administrator; Dr. Tom Holt, Eastern Regional READO Director; Dr. Ernie Zirkle, President of USAHA; and Dr. Glen Hoffsis, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Ohio State University.

The meeting consisted of state reports, a business meeting, scientific presentations, discussion of significant points of major interest and election of officers. The officers for the next year are: Dr. Larry Schuler, State Veterinarian North Dakota, President; Dr. John Schiltz, State Veterinarian Iowa, President Elect; and Mr. George Teagarden, Director of Animal Industry, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Secretary/Treasurer. The membership decided to continue the mid-year meetings in May to be hosted in the state of the current president.

Larry Adams, Assistant Director of Agriculture, welcomed the meeting to Ohio held in the newly renovated Animal Industry conference room. He discussed the major capital improvement to the Ohio Department of Agriculture including the new additions of the

necropsy suite, pathology wing and reception area to Animal Industry. On Wednesday, the scientific presentations included Johne's, scrapie and the status of TB in Michigan.

Dr. Brenda Love, lead Microbiologist for the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL), presented a laboratory's perspective of a Johne's control program. Dr. William Saville, Assistant Professor, Department of Preventative Medicine College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at the Ohio State University (OSU), discussed the use of current available Johne's diagnostic tests and their limits of detection in herds of cattle. Dr. Clarence Si-



L to R front row: Dr. Lori Miser, Dr. Dave Glauer, Dr. Larry Williams, Dr. Mike Chaddock, Dr. Clarence Siroky, Dr. Sam Holland, Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt Back row: Dr. Dave Schmitt, Dr. Lee McPhail, Dr. Dick Hull, Dr. Tom Hagerty, Dr. John Hunt, Dr. Bret Marsh, Dr. Larry Shuler

roky, Wisconsin State Veterinarian, gave an update on their Johne's program and the status of their laboratory. Dr. William Shulaw, Extension Beef/Sheep Veterinarian, OSU/CVM, discussed Johne's and its diagnosis in small ruminants, specifically sheep and goats.

Dr. Sue Skorupski, Area Epidemiologist for Ohio and West Virginia, presented the new USDA Scrapie Program with emphasis on regulatory and certification issues. Those highlighted were pilot projects, test valida-

## Southern

by Gene Eskew, Oklahoma Host  
Southern Animal Health Association

Oklahoma was pleased to host this year's meeting of the Southern Animal Health Association in Oklahoma City, June 11-14, 2000. Seventy-five participants from 20 states were represented.

Much of the program provided updates on disease issues of interest to all animal health officials. Continued progress in the brucellosis eradication program was reported by Dr. Valerie Ragan, and development of a new animal ID system was reported by Dr. John Wiemers. The anticipated loss of the CITE test for use in L/S Markets was discussed with the use of Rivanol a likely successor. Concern regarding brucellosis in the Yellowstone bison herd was expressed and a resolution supporting the Western States Resolution was passed. The Department of Interior has conceded to allow RB-51 brucellosis vaccine on this herd.

The current tuberculosis episode in Michigan white-tailed deer was discussed with emphasis on the requirement for interstate movement of Michigan cattle. Most attendees indicated that a full herd test plus a 30-day pre-entry test on individual cattle would be required. A post-entry retest of breeding cattle was favored by most of the states represented. Concern was expressed that more cattle outside of the restricted counties should be tested. The governor and animal health officials in Michigan are very supportive in resolving this issue as quickly as possible.

The feral swine issue as a reservoir of pseudorabies and swine brucellosis continues to produce many questions but very few answers. Additional funding to address this issue was the one an-

# USAHA Regional Meetings

## Southern Meeting from page 4

swer that everyone agreed is necessary. Florida is trying to determine the efficacy and safety of vaccine-laden baits and the effect (if any) on non-target species.

Following the importation of screwworm larvae it was recommended that import station personnel receive additional training in the use of tranquilizers and be allowed to utilize them to facilitate a more thorough examination of imported animals, for larvae as well as ticks.

Emergency preparedness in the event of natural or man made disasters was a major issue discussed by all participants. The Gulf-coast states have and will continue to prepare for animal injury and dislocation from hurricanes. Tornadoes, floods and fires in the states represented are common, and even terrorist activities such as the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City or the potential dissemination of biological agents have shown that emergency preparedness must be improved. Nearly all states have recognized this need and are developing response protocols to deal with disasters. All agreed that any program must include local private practitioners.

Oklahoma Department of Health officials in cooperation with CDC reported completion of their investigation regarding chronic wasting disease (CWD) and the Oklahoman afflicted with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). Unfortunately this person has succumbed to this disease. Surveillance of white-tailed deer near this person's home and areas where he was known to deer hunt produced no evidence of CWD. It was concluded that the consumption of venison had no direct relationship to this case of CJD.

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## Western

by Arnold Gertonson, President  
Western Animal Health Association

The USAHA Western District meeting was held March 15-16, 2000, in Reno, Nevada. State Veterinarians, State Meat and Food Inspectors and APHIS representatives met in joint meetings and separately to discuss topics of interest and issues brought before members.

Dr. Linda Logan-Henfry presented emergency animal disease preparedness topics to the members. She stated that we are moving toward world trade globalization. European farmers do not want United States meat imported into Europe.

Animal diseases cost livestock producers \$17 billion annually and food safety is of great concern to consumers in developed countries. Many countries use livestock health and/or livestock product regulations as non-tariff trade barriers. Livestock health and livestock product importation regulations should be science based and not used as trade barriers.

We must be more vigilant regarding disease transmission between countries. World travelers could be fomites for transmission of animal diseases. The current outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in several countries are of concern because of the number of people who visit those countries for business and as tourists. Foot-and-mouth disease virus can live on some clothing articles for years.

The new age of biotechnology brings to mind examples of the good, the bad and the ugly in regards to animal and human health. Better nutrition is good. We are feeding more people and animals with high-quality food. Biotechnology is considered by some to be "bad" because of the fear of the

unknown. Biotechnology needs to be monitored. Bioterrorism is the "ugly" part of biotechnology.

The diagnosis of many diseases will be confirmed, in many cases, in state diagnostic laboratories. Diagnostic laboratories must be continually updated to be able to detect diseases we are unfamiliar with or confirm the diagnoses of practitioners.

New and/or updated research laboratories are desperately needed to protect the animal and human health of the United States and the world. The United States is not upgrading its diagnostic and research capabilities at the same rate as other developed countries. Some countries are providing 40-50 times as much funding as the United States to upgrade or build new facilities to meet their animal health needs.

Dr. Heidi Hamlin, Dr. Dee Ellis and Dr. Ken Thomazin discussed coordination of state emergency preparedness plans and presented a survey of resources available in some states. The equipment and resources varies a great deal.

They discussed emergency management assistance compacts between states. These allow states to share resources during disasters. They also discussed the need for formal agreements and informal agreements in regard to emergency management.

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# USAHA

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## Reunion of Brucellosis Workers Taking Shape

by Claude Barton

The brucellosis workers reunion is scheduled for the evening of Monday, Oct. 23, 2000, at the Sheraton Civic Center Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the USAHA. The reunion will include an evening meal. It will be necessary for those planning to attend to let their intentions be known in advance so that arrangements can be made with the hotel.



Claude Barton

Those attending the reunion are urged to register and participate in the USAHA program during the week, thus having more time to visit and reminisce with old friends and former co-workers. However, attendees may attend the reunion without registering for the USAHA program. Current members of the USAHA will be able to register for the reunion along with their meeting registration.

Time is getting short. Over 800 names have been added to the list of former brucellosis workers. Even so, there are several states that have not submitted any names of former workers who might be interested in attending. It is important that these names be in hand by Aug. 1 so plans can be completed.

Names and addresses should be sent to Dr. J. Lee Alley, State Veterinarian, P. O. Box 3336, Montgomery, AL, 36109-0336, Phone (334) 240-7255, FAX(334) 223-7352, E-mail alagiai01@agri-ind.state.al.us, or to either Dr. Jere Dick or Dr. Jan Huber in the eastern and western regional offices respectively, of APHIS, VS.

Individuals included on the list of former brucellosis workers will be receiving reunion information and forms for registering for the reunion dinner. Look forward to seeing you in Birmingham.

## NAHRS and Constituencies Meet in Washington, D.C.

by J. Lee Alley, USAHA Secretary

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS) sponsored a meeting of the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) steering committee with individuals from the export and trade arenas in Wash-



J. Lee Alley

ington, DC on May 12, 2000. Represented were: USAHA; USDA, APHIS, VS International Services and Trade Support Team; U.S. Poultry and Egg Association; USDA Foreign Agriculture Service; USDA Food Safety Inspection Services; Wampler Foods; National Chicken Council; National Turkey Federation; the National Pork Producers Council; the California Poultry Federation; U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council; United Egg Producers; and Live-stock Exporter Association.

The United States, as a member of the Office International des Epizootics (OIE), has been reporting on our animal health status for over 20 years. In the past, the information needed to complete the OIE reports and for use in trade negotiations has not always been available or reliable. The USAHA, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and the USDA-APHIS have worked together to develop the NAHRS to fill some of these information gaps.

Dr. Alfonso Torres, as the Chief Veterinary Officer for the United States, explained that APHIS fully supports the continued development and implementation of the NAHRS. Dr. Torres needs not only the information provided by the NAHRS, but needs the system itself as evidence of ongoing animal health surveillance in the Unit-

ed States. The United States holds other countries to very high standards during trade negotiations and must be able to meet the same standards. Both the USDA, APHIS Trade Support Team and the USDA, FAS need the information provided by the NAHRS to negotiate equitable trade agreements.

Several industry representatives expressed a high level of fear that the information being reported to the OIE would be used against them and that the NAHRS would only serve to provide additional ammunition. They are afraid that the United States was moving too far ahead of other countries and providing much more information than the others. There was also a high level of frustration with having to live within the constraints established by past trade negotiations.

By the end of the day, all participants had a better understanding of the need for the NAHRS, and the problems associated with animal disease reporting and trade negotiation in the absence of reliable information. Several suggestions were made on how to continue expanding participation in the NAHRS.

USDA, APHIS, VS is investigating the production of an informational video on the NAHRS. This video could be used to educate multiple audiences, including the CEOs of poultry production companies. The NAHRS steering committee is developing an informational brochure on the NAHRS and a review of the level of information being reported by individual countries to the OIE. Education efforts will be directed at groups both nationally and at the state level. The NAHRS will be discussed at the National Chicken Council executive meeting this October. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) meeting is also a potential educational opportunity.

# Major Pork Study Kicks Off

USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services

Pork producers are being strongly encouraged to participate in Swine 2000, a survey that will provide individual pork producers and the pork industry as a whole with invaluable information on their practices, problems, and needs.

Why should producers participate? Probably the best reason to participate is this: by taking part in Swine 2000, pork producers will be provided with valuable disease information on their own herd and allow them to see how their practices stack up against other swine operations, thus bettering their own operation.

"The data will benefit the industry as a whole by contributing to a national database that can be used to help manage diseases, identify problem areas in production, make operations more efficient and more profitable, better the overall health of our national herd, and thereby increase pork exports," said Eric Bush, veterinary epidemiologist with APHIS Veterinary Services.

"The data collected in this survey will lead to a safer food supply, more effective management of swine diseases, better pharmaceutical service for producers, and an enhanced U.S. position in international markets," Dr. Bush said.

Veterinary Services staff have begun identifying producers who will be asked to participate in the survey. Eligible operations are statistically selected from 17 of the major swine-producing states to represent 93 percent of hogs and 92 percent of producers with 100 or more hogs.

VS' National Animal Health

Monitoring Systems (NAHMS) staff will collect swine blood samples from selected producers to create a serum bank that will give USDA and industry researchers the ability to examine the history of new and emerging disease agents.

Producers who participate in the survey can choose to have their swine tested for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, swine influenza, as well as Salmonella and other food-borne pathogens.

"These test results will be shared with the producer and otherwise kept confidential," said Dr. Bush. "Most of the benefits

from this survey will be for the industry as a whole," added Dr. Bush. "We put statistical weights to the survey information, giving us the ability to apply it to the national

swine population. This will significantly increase our knowledge of food-borne pathogens on the farm."

Consumers will benefit as well. Swine 2000 will provide producers, researchers, and USDA with information on reducing Salmonella on the farm. A national prevalence of Yersinia and Toxoplasma in the swine herd will be obtained as well. Prevalence information on these pathogens will help advance cooperative disease control efforts, describe current use of good production practices that will enhance research on risk factors, and assist the industry in targeting producer education efforts to improve adoption of good production practices.

Swine 2000 also will provide industry and government regula-



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

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

For the past three years, a number of people have asked me about the feasibility of a "private" spot on the Web for USAHA



Larry Mark

members—a place where they could discuss issues with other members outside the public view or perhaps where members of a particular committee could edit and

work on a document.

Well, as I mentioned in the last issue of this newsletter, we now have two such sites: <http://usaha.intranets.com> for all USAHA members and <http://usaha-johnes.intranets.com> for members of the Johnes's Disease Committee.

We're using a commercial service that's free (they get their money through advertisements) but it does what we want to do—and more—in terms of setting up a private site where we can post material that only selected individuals can access.

As I mentioned previously, here are some of the features:

- Group announcements—you can add or edit
- The calendar—you can add or edit items
- Group members—You can get the entire list or "find" by name (and use that name to send an e-mail message)
- Group contacts—you can add or list or "find" by name
- Group documents—add or list or "find" by title

Their "help" section seems to be very user friendly. And they're continually adding features.

## Constitution/Bylaw Task Force Meets in Maryland

by Dick McCapes

The USAHA Constitution and Bylaws Task Force, co-chaired by Larry Williams and J. Lee Alley, met in Annapolis, Maryland, on April 4-5, 2000. Roger Olson, Maryland State Veterinarian, hosted the meeting at the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue deliberations of proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws to be considered by the Executive Committee during USAHA's annual meeting in Birmingham this October.

The major objective of the task force, which was formed early in 1999, is to make certain the constitution and bylaws are updated to facilitate changes envisioned by the 1996 USAHA Strategic Plan, including mission, management, annual program and communications.



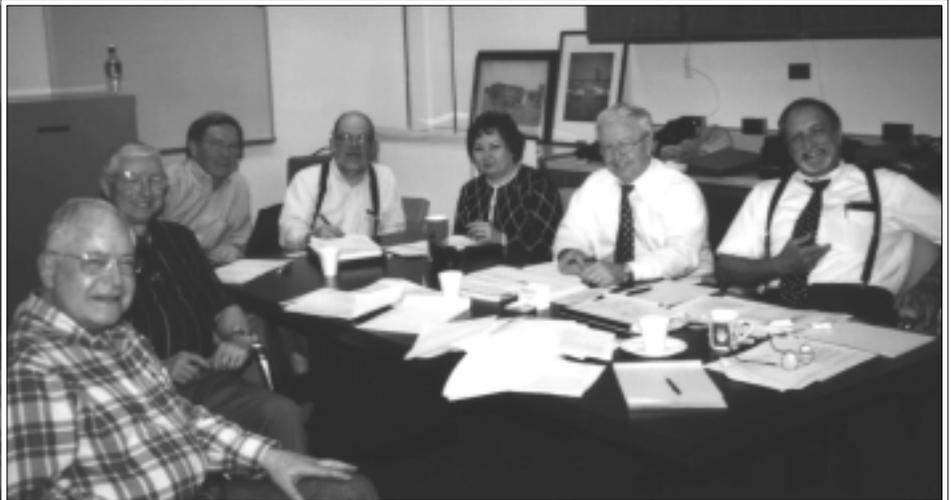
Sam Serata

The task force was also asked to consider revisions that might mitigate concerns of the Association's District-At-Large pertaining to international trade and membership criteria.

Since last April, Samuel J. Serata, attorney at law from Bridgeton, New Jersey, and friend of USAHA President Ernie Zirkle, has been advising and guiding the revision process on a pro bono, expense only, basis.

The task force has chosen to rewrite the Association's existing constitution and bylaws document in an attempt to balance the roles of the constitution, bylaws and administrative procedures.

A 4/29/00 draft revision is now out for comment. The task force final draft will be sent to Executive Committee members prior to the annual meeting.



Constitution & Bylaws Task Force at work. From left: Sam Serata, Harvey Gosser, J. Lee Alley, Ernie Zirkle, Nancy Robinson, Larry Williams, Bob Eckroade.



State Veterinarian Roger Olson, second from left, shows off Maryland's Department of Agriculture building to Bob Eckroade. Insert: Olson at work in his office.



After a hard day's work, Constitution & Bylaws Task Force members are ready for a crab feed at a seafood restaurant overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

# 104th Annual Meeting

October 19-26, 2000  
Birmingham, Alabama

The USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting will be held October 19-26, 2000, at the Birmingham Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. The hotel reservation form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill it out and return it to the hotel as soon as possible or call reservations at 1-888-661-5678. The hotel number is 205-324-5000.

## Preregister by September 19th

Please be sure to fill out the enclosed annual meeting registration form and return it by September 19, 2000, along with your check in the proper amount, made out to USAHA. Anyone sending checks from outside the United States, please make your check payable in U.S. dollars on a U. S. bank.

The policy regarding refunds for preregistrants who are unable to attend the meeting, will be to withhold twenty five dollars (\$25.00) to cover processing and handling. Your request for a refund must be made in writing within seven (7) days after the close of the meeting.

The meeting is basically the same schedule as last year, we have enclosed a tentative program for your convenience in planning your travel to Birmingham.

The tour activities are still being made and the information will be in the next newsletter.

We look forward to seeing every one in Birmingham. Please be sure to preregister by September 19th and save yourself \$25!

### See Enclosures

Hotel Reservation Form  
USAHA/AAVLD Registration Form  
Tentative Agenda

*I would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers and special notes of condolences and support during this difficult time after the death of my Mother.*

*Also thank you for your contributions to the Emergency Squad in her behalf. I know she would have been pleased about this, because she was very active in raising monies for the Squad until she became sick about five years ago.*

*Again, thank you.*

*Linda Ragland*

## TV REVIEW & OPINION

by Dick McCapes

**"The Buffalo Wars: Isn't There a Better Way?":** ABC News Nightline with Chris Bury, February 9, 2000.

This 21 minute "documentary" emphasizes the fate of cohorts of Yellowstone National Park's (YNP) bison herd forced by hunger and incipient starvation within YNP during wintertime to rove out of the Park's boundaries in search of food on range land used for cattle production in Montana.

Chris Bury metaphorically refers to the bison's fate as The Buffalo Wars, pitting "the federal government and a rag-tag band of animal rightists on one side and the state of Montana and its powerful cattle industry on the other."

Bury does not, however, utter the word "brucellosis," the major cause of the conflict, until about 7 minutes into the program. As a result, many viewers, in my mind, would be largely unaware during the initial one-third of the program of long-standing brucellosis infection in YNP bison and the threat diseased bison pose to the health of Montana's brucellosis-free cattle population.

Instead, during the opening 7 minutes viewers are jarred by a fast-moving visual and aural bombardment that, to me, labors mightily to depict Montana Department of Livestock employees as hell-bent on chasing helpless bison in the dead of winter using snowmobiles and, on occasion, wantonly shooting them simply because they crossed over an "imaginary" state boundary line ... for no reason at all.

"My God, put a stop to this," must be the thought uppermost in the minds of many stunned viewers by the end of the 7 minutes. Not exactly a receptive frame of mind for "the rest of the story." Perhaps this is the point of it all.

U.S. Department of Interior Assistant Secretary Don Barry reinforces the early indoctrination, I feel, by saying that Montana's fears of their cattle becoming infected with brucella organisms transmitted from bison is based on theory, not facts, and the risk of this happening is incredibly small. It is time for Montana to

move on and abandon "old thinking," says Barry, comparing Montana's approach to brucellosis control to that used in the 50's, 60's and 70's. "We have all learned a lot since then," he concludes.

Unfortunately, the brucella organism ... the enemy in this war ... does not pay any attention to rhetoric. Our nation's experience is that diligent application of proven, science-based methods is required to eliminate this disease

Marc Racicot, Governor of Montana, the last of several people appearing in the program, points out to Bury that a 1998 report by the National Academy of Sciences (Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area), which was commissioned by Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt, says the risk of transmission of the disease is real, contrary to Interior's assertions.

Racicot presents a positive outlook for resolving the conflict, a thorough knowledge of the disease and our nation's brucellosis eradication program, and sensitive proposals for solution. "We must solve this ... we are almost there ... we feel that the court can help us get to the final conclusion," said the Governor.

Inexplicably, not a single representative of the veterinary medical profession, our nation's primary source of expertise in animal disease control and research, appeared in the program.

*Other observations* - No mention is made that brucellosis infection in animals is transmissible to humans. And there was little discussion of factors contributing to the wintertime hunger and starvation the bison had suffered within YNP.

*Final thoughts* - Senior officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the federal agency responsible for eradicating brucellosis in the United States, are, in my opinion, ducking leadership responsibility in the YNP matter ... on and off television.

Fortunately for the nation, Governor Racicot is providing leadership in seeking a cooperative and balanced plan to resolve the complexity of issues involved.



**Canada/U.S. Research**  
from page 1

NCFAD (now retired), chaired the exploratory meeting to evaluate disease in non-traditional North American livestock.

Agencies present at the NCFAD meeting were:

**CFIA – NCFAD:** National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease

**CFIA-ADRI:** Animal Diseases Research Institute

**USDA-VS:** Veterinary Services

**USDA-VS-CEA:** Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health

**USDA-VS-NVSL:** National Veterinary Services Laboratories

**USDA-ARS ABADRL:** Agricultural Research Service – Arthropod-borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory

Camelids, both New World and Old World, were the focus of this meeting. A need was recognized to establish protocols for the study of certain diseases in camelids. The group determined that further understanding of disease conditions in camelids is

needed for appropriate disease management and eradication purposes. Valid diagnostics are required by world trade agreements to ensure rapid and safe movement of livestock. The task of understanding South American Camelid (SAC) diseases and providing validated diagnostics for these species quickly mushroomed into an immense project. Many years of study and hundreds of thousands of dollars for each earmarked disease could be required. The need to evaluate 15 to 30 animals per disease as requested by statisticians for number validation may put diagnostic research for non-traditional livestock at a loss for dollars, facilities, and manpower in the not too distant future.

All studies conducted to date on infectious diseases of SACs indicate that all four New World camelids (llama, alpaca, vicuna, and guanaco) respond to agents in the same way (diagnostic test validity, sensitivity, specificity).

Therefore, the group stipulated that it is not necessary to duplicate studies on each species.

Old World camels were also considered. Camel numbers in North America are estimated to be only about 4,000. Small numbers, to be sure, but as members of the family Camelidae, they share similar anatomy and possibly resis-

tance or susceptibility to infectious and parasitic diseases with llamas and alpacas. Perhaps the most pressing need for non-zoo camel owners and breeders is that camels be recognized as a unique domestic animal, which is not a ruminant, by state, provincial and federal regulatory officials. They need to be classified with llamas and alpacas for regulatory purposes. Camels, like lla-



The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, located in Winnipeg, is the only maximum biocontainment laboratory (BSL-4) in the world that has been specifically designed for both human and animal diseases. The Centre has been operational for two years after a construction period that lasted for ten years. (BSL-4 = Biosecurity Level 4)



Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, Chief Staff Veterinarian, USDA-APHIS-VS, inspects a Level 4 safety suit as a Health Canada research person prepares to suit up. The positive air pressure protective suit has "High Efficiency Particulate Air" (HEPA) filtered air supply. Scientists or maintenance persons enter and exit the containment laboratory via an airlock door system to maintain the negative to positive air flow safety feature of the Level 4 areas.



During the meeting at NCFAD, Dr. James Mecham shared information with the group about the new alkaline hydrolysis digester recently installed in the BSL-3 large-animal facility at the USDA, ARS, Arthropod-borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory in Laramie, Wyoming. The unit represents state-of-the-art technology for animal carcass disposal. It can process 1,500 pounds in about four hours into a liquid slurry for safe disposal into the municipal sewage. The cost of operation is approximately \$0.03 per pound compared to \$0.25 per pound for incineration.

## Canada/U.S. Research

from page 10

mas and alpacas, have become more important, and economically valued animals in their native countries. Likewise, they have become an alternative livestock species in the United States. Serologic laboratory tests need to be validated for use in camels just as is being done presently for llamas and alpacas.

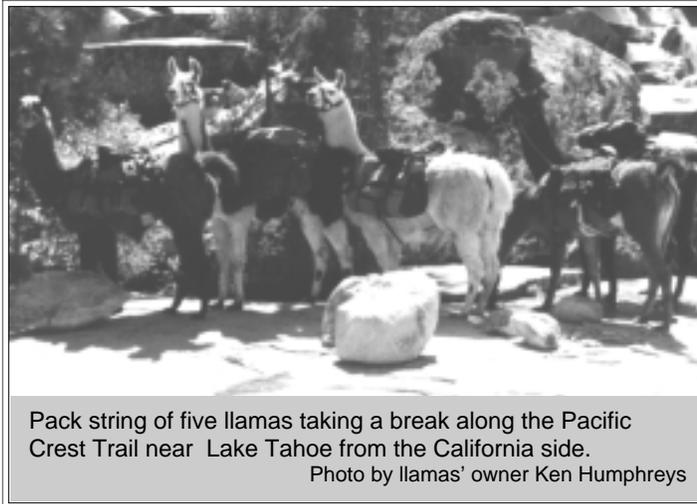
A decision was made to make the study of bovine brucellosis, vesicular stomatitis (VS), bluetongue (BT) and epizootic hemorrhagic diseases (EHD) the first priorities.

Although *Brucella abortus* has never been reported to occur naturally in SACs anywhere in the world, validation of additional *brucella* diagnostic tests is needed. Other diseases were discussed, especially those that had been mentioned in a survey of prevalence reported to the annual USA-HA meeting in 1999. The list included anaplasmosis, leptospirosis, bovine tuberculosis, human tuberculosis, avian tuberculosis, Johne's disease, foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, trypanosomiasis (*Trypanosoma evansi*), bovine virus diarrhea, retinal degeneration (equine herpesvirus type 1), rabies, caseous lymphadenitis (*Actinomyces pseudotuberculosis*), and ovine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).

TB (bovine tuberculosis) in SACs is a concern for regulatory officials, but sufficient research has been conducted to date to indicate that the tuberculin skin test is valid. Canada has published the results of its TB project which was completed at laboratory facilities in Nepean and the United States TB project data is complete and ready for publication.

The motivation by Canada and the United States to evaluate diag-

nostic testing for non-traditional livestock for the purpose of compliance with international-standard setting organizations is commendable. The question looms how to establish support for facilities, manpower, animals, and money. Proactive projects prove difficult to establish adequate funding from government and industry. Crisis management traditionally makes the headlines and receives any funds that are available. The ultimate goal to improve non-traditional livestock diagnostics for disease control and eradication of disease will take dedication from government and industry.



Pack string of five llamas taking a break along the Pacific Crest Trail near Lake Tahoe from the California side.

Photo by llamas' owner Ken Humphreys

World-renowned expert on camelids Dr. Murray Fowler, Professor Emeritus, UC Davis, was in attendance. His knowledge of the animals, their diseases, prevalence, and diagnostics allowed the group to focus on current needs and protocols.

In 1998, as a producer of llamas in California, I was approached by Canadian research people to assist in various projects concerning llamas, alpacas, and other non-traditional livestock. Agreement was reached through conversations and meetings that all research would be published and all diagnostic tests would be validated. The Winnipeg meeting required two years of prodding and planning to come to fruition, but it brought United States and Canadian officials to a greater awareness, sense of direction and possible collaboration for studies on camelids.

## The Llama Story

Located in the Western United States is the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), which follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Mountain Ranges from the Mexican border to the Canadian border. Every summer, hikers follow the trail from border to border, often averaging 25 miles or more a day.

Volunteers from the Pacific Crest Trail Association dedicate their time in assisting the U.S. Forest Service trail crew experts in keeping the trail in usable condition.

For the last several years, trained pack llamas have assisted the Forest Service and the PCT Association in their annual work week. The llama pack string carries in all the kitchen equipment and food for a dozen people for a week of trail restoration.

During the week, the pack llamas provide a valuable service by carrying sand and gravel used in trail repairs from sand bars and drainage areas to the trail location being repaired. Each llama carries close to 80 pounds and makes many such loads during a day.

At the end of the week the llamas pack out the equipment and the garbage. The llamas are appreciated more every year as they assist the crew and volunteers with the work on the PCT.

*The wisest mind hath something yet to learn.  
George Santayana*

## National Cattlemen's Beef Association

from page 2

Denver, which is comprised of several "centers" including: Association Services which manages membership; Consumer Marketing, Research and Technical Services, which conducts food safety, and other research; as well as the Beef Quality Assurance Program, Communications and Administration.

The Washington, D.C., office represents the Center for Public Policy and is likely the center you most frequently hear about. All NCBA centers work closely together to benefit the beef industry.

The beef industry represents the single largest contributor to farm and ranch income. The production side alone is a \$40 billion business comprised of \$34 billion in cattle sales and \$6 billion in feed, medicine and other services. The total impact on the economy is more than \$95 billion.

As a result of the scope of impact of the beef cattle industry, there are more than 50 Federal government agencies that influence the business and consumer marketing climate for the industry.

Producer-driven policy guides the staff as decisions are made affecting the industry and as interactions with the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government occur.

The core issues the NCBA is working on at this time include the following:

### FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH

NCBA members work to meet these goals:

- The NCBA Beef Quality Assurance is a voluntary, on-farm education program for cattlemen. In 1997, more than 98 percent of cattle going through feedlots and 90 percent of cattle on farms and ranches were from states with BQA programs.

- NCBA is committed to work-

ing with all industry segments, consumers and government agencies to address food issues.

- Cattlemen support research on the nutritional qualities of beef to help consumers make informed decisions about their diets.

- Cattlemen support research to provide beef products that meet consumer desires for foods that taste good and are convenient as well as nutritious.

- NCBA supports the judicious use of antibiotics to protect animal health and ensure public health.

### ENVIRONMENT

NCBA members work to:

- Ensure that states retain primacy in designating water uses, establishing water quality standards and allocating water.

- Require environmental regulations to be site-specific, science-based and economically justifiable.

- Modernize the Endangered Species Act to ensure species conservation and recovery while protecting property rights.

- Expand the education, technical assistance and voluntary incentives available to all beef producers.

### TAX AND BUDGET

A reduction in federal spending will allow cattlemen to invest more in their family businesses and communities. Changing the most egregious tax measures, such as the death tax and the capital gains tax, will lower the cost of beef for consumers and preserve farm and ranch land and the open spaces they create.

To achieve these goals, cattlemen support:

- Elimination of the death tax.
- Reduction of capital gains tax rates.

- Fiscal responsibility and efforts to protect against deficit spending.

### FEDERAL LANDS

Members of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association know

that family ranchers have a symbiotic relationship with the land. To maintain open space and wildlife in the West, where the federal government owns most of the land, the ranching industry that supports the land must be afforded measures of stability.

The following are some of the best ways to make that happen:

- A federal grazing fee that is fair to both western family ranchers and the federal government.

- Science-based range management and monitoring.

- Range management using flexible, outcome-based standards.
- Private investment in federal lands

### PROPERTY RIGHTS

The right to own and use property is fundamental to the American way of life and is vital to the cattle industry. The federal government should not abuse its authority to regulate the use of private lands.

- To achieve this goal, NCBA members support compensation for takings after property values have been reduced by federal government regulations. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects property rights and requires that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation.

- Cattlemen support alternatives to costly and lengthy litigation, such as increased access to the court system, to protect their property rights.

*"... nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."*

*Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States*

### FOREIGN TRADE

Members of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association know that exports are the future for growth in the cattle and beef industry. Increased beef exports will

## National Cattlemen's Beef Association

from page 12

have a positive impact on the U.S. trade balance. With 96 percent of the world's consumers living outside the United States and growing demand for agricultural products worldwide, the United States is poised to be a leading international supplier of agricultural products, especially beef.

NCBA members work to give U.S. beef the opportunity to compete in foreign markets.

- Cattlemen support international trade agreements that are fair, science-based and increase U.S. beef access to foreign markets.

- Cattlemen support enforcement of all trade rules, including animal health and food safety regulations.

### CATTLE MARKETING

The cattle industry is a bright spot in the agriculture industry because it has allowed the market to work for it. Minimum government manipulation of markets is essential to ensuring the free market works. Cattlemen work to reduce direct federal involvement in agriculture and beef production, and enhance market transparency and availability of market information. Public policy should be oriented toward a competitive, private enterprise market.

- Cattlemen support improved and more timely market information. Fewer buyers cannot have undue leverage when market information is widely available to more dispersed sellers.

- Cattlemen support cattle marketing programs that do not regulate private business practices.

- NCBA members support innovation and improvement of marketing opportunities and encourage cattle producers to take advantage of them.

### CATTLE HEALTH

For more than 100 years, cattlemen,—working with state and

federal governments, scientists and veterinarians—have successfully controlled and eradicated cattle diseases. Due to these partnerships, United States cattle are healthy and U.S. cattlemen produce 25 percent of the world's beef supply with 10 percent of the world's cattle.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association supports fully funding federal programs that will:

- Protect the United States from the introduction of foreign animal disease such as BSE and foot-and-mouth disease.

- Eliminate animal disease such as brucellosis and tuberculosis from domestic and wild animals.

- Prevent new or emerging animal diseases from affecting cattle health and potentially impacting public health.

- Eliminate unnecessary animal health-related barriers to free trade.

I know many of you support our position and are an integral part of our efforts. Our work is paying off. For the first time in over 15 years, the real demand for beef has increased. That means consumers are willing to pay more for beef products, helping to ensure the future viability of the industry. We are also making great strides to implement new meat inspections systems, eradicate diseases such as TB and brucellosis.

You can become a member of the NCBA and participate as an Associate Member even if you do not own any cattle!

If you want more information on the NCBA, or to find out more about joining, you can visit our website at [www.beef.org](http://www.beef.org) or call me at (202) 347-0228.

*"Perfect freedom is as necessary to the health and vigor of commerce, as it is to the health and vigor of citizenship"*  
Patrick Henry

## webpage update

from page 7

Now that's the good news. The bad news is that not very many of you have signed up to use it! If this tool is going to be useful for us, we need more folks involved not only in signing on but in posting information, dates of meetings, documents you want folks to read, press releases issued by your office on animal health matters, etc.

To sign on, you need the registration code (which I can supply) and then you set your own individual login and password. If you're interested, just send me an e-mail at the address above and I'll let you know how to do it. And to further promote this, I'll be e-mailing a reminder to the officers and committee chairs shortly after this newsletter comes out.

In the near future, we'll be adding another link on the USAHA home page. The National Animal Health Emergency Management System steering committee (NAHEMS) has asked USAHA to host their Web site and we've agreed to do this. I'll be meeting with the steering committee in late June to start work on this.

Finally, as of June 30, we've had more than 21,545 visitors since our Webpage opened in November 1997 and we're still well on track to hit the 25,000-mark by the time we get to Birmingham!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The "USAHA" newsletter seeks to provide information of interest and use to the membership. We would appreciate your critique of our efforts and ideas for future editions. We may publish all or parts of your letter.

Send letters to: Editor, "USAHA"  
27224 Meadowbrook Dr., Davis,  
CA 95616  
telephone & fax (530) 756-4284  
[RMCCAPES@compuserve.com](mailto:RMCCAPES@compuserve.com)

### Jim Pearson's OIE Report from page 3

and the Wildlife Diseases, Veterinary Drug Registration and the Biotechnology Working Groups.

Dr. Thierry Chillaud, Head of the Information and International Trade Department, is responsible for the disease-reporting function of the OIE and the International Animal Health Code Commission, which is the most complex of the four Commissions. Thierry and I spend much of our time coordinating these meetings, helping prepare the reports and carrying out the work that the Commissions and Groups initiate. All of the reports of the Commissions and Working Groups are prepared in the three official languages,—English, French and Spanish—and distributed to the 155 member countries for comment. They are then presented to the International Committee for approval. All of the Commissions and the Wildlife Diseases Working Group have had two meetings since I arrived at the OIE. The Biotechnology Working Group did not meet this year, and instead of holding the Veterinary Drug Registration Working Group, there have been two meetings of an Ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. The reports of all the Commissions and Working Groups were presented to the International Committee for approval during the last General Session in May.

In addition to the programs conducted at the Central Bureau in Paris, there are OIE-sponsored activities in the other countries. Some of these activities are coordinated from the Central Bureau but there also are meetings and training courses co-ordinated by the Regional Representatives. The OIE Regional Representative for the Americas is Dr. E. J. Gimeno, and the office is in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In addition, the OIE Collaborating Centers sponsor training courses and other meetings. The two in the United States are the OIE Collaborating Center for Animal Disease Surveillance

Systems and Risk Assessment, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, USDA, Ft. Collins, Colorado, and OIE Collaborating Center for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, VS-APHIS-USDA, and Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

The following are some of the highlights of the International Committee General Session:

- Dr. Bernard Vallat, Chief Veterinary Officer of France, was designated as the Director General to replace Dr. Blancou who is retiring at the end of December 2000.

- Dr Romano Marabelli, Delegate from Italy, was elected President, and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, Delegate from Senegal, was elected Vice-President.

- All the Members of the Commissions were elected. The Americans elected were Dr Alex Thiermann, IS, APHIS, USDA as President of the Code Commission; Dr Beverly Schmitt, NVSL, APHIS, USDA, as Secretary General of the Standards Commission; and Prof. Donald V. Lightner, University of Arizona, Tucson, Member of the Fish Disease Commission.

- A new chapter of the OIE International Animal Health Code on bovine spongiform encephalopathy was approved.

- The bluetongue chapter of the OIE International Animal Health Code was discussed and portions of it are still under study.

- Argentina and Swaziland were approved as foot and mouth disease free without vaccination. A larger zone in Brazil was approved as FMD-free with vaccination. The 53 previously approved FMD free countries without vaccination were reconfirmed, as were the zones in four other countries, and the one country that was FMD



OIE Central Bureau; 12 rue Je Prony; close to center of Paris, not far from Arch De Triumph



Stairway of OIE Central Bureau building

free with vaccination.

- Eighty-six countries, including Canada, Mexico and the United States, were approved as free of rinderpest infection.

- A questionnaire to use as a standard for declaring a country free of BSE was discussed but not approved. It will be reviewed by member countries and an amended version submitted again next year.

- A standard for laboratory

**Jim Pearson's OIE Report**  
from page 14

quality assurance was approved.

- The publication of the 2000 edition of the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests was approved (available in December 2000).

- The publication of the 2000 edition of the International Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases was approved.

- World trends in the distribution of

animal diseases was presented and will be published.

- The OIE Third Strategic Plan for 2001-2005 was approved.

Living in Paris has been exciting for my wife, Pat, and me. It has been a big change to move from a house in the woods in Ames, Iowa to an apartment overlooking a grocery store in the middle of Paris. Our 1,000 square foot apartment is large by Paris standards and adequate for the two of us. The winter was much warmer than Ames with very few days below freezing. I have been walking the 1.1 miles to work and we only use the car for weekend travels. Finding a parking place near our apartment or anyplace in Paris is difficult. Pat and I each have French tutors but our knowledge of French is still very limited. Fortunately for me, most of the meetings are in English. Pat's French is better than mine, but she has to use it more. The job does involve some travel and Pat has often accompanied me.

The first nine months of living in Paris have been an adventure for both of us and the job has been

interesting and challenging for me. My observation is that the OIE does accomplish its mission of setting standards for international trade and reporting animal diseases. It is able to do this with a very small budget due to the



"Street where we live; second floor apartment (1,000 square feet) across street from grocery store." Jim Pearson

support provided by the member countries and the expertise of the commissions, working groups and ad hoc groups.

**Wildlife Authority**

from page 3

life in a National Park or Wildlife Refuge, APHIS would seek the concurrence of the Department of Interior before exercising their authority. In the case of wildlife within a state (outside of National Parks or Wildlife Refuges), APHIS regulations are administered in cooperation with the state or states involved when the wildlife disease threatens livestock or poultry.

Since the 1880's, APHIS has had the primary responsibility of protection against wildlife disease that infects livestock and poultry. That is of increasing importance because many of these diseases are contagious to humans—such as brucellosis in the Yellowstone bison and elk, tuberculosis in Michigan deer, rabies in raccoon in the Northeast, West Nile disease in the Northeast, and possi-

bly spongiform encephalopathy (chronic wasting disease) in western deer and elk. The public health responsibility of APHIS and state veterinarians is awesome when we consider the scope of infectious diseases in wildlife, threatening man, bird and beast.

The policy APHIS has regarding Yellowstone bison is to seek the concurrence of the Department of Interior in management of the herd within Yellowstone Park. Obviously they have not succeeded in getting agreement from the Department of Interior, and APHIS has not been able to control federal policy in dealing with this problem herd. I hope the results of the mediation between these two agencies and Montana will point the way toward a positive science-based plan of control and eradication of brucellosis from this bison herd.

APHIS, meanwhile, has undertaken a revision of Veterinary Services strategies for wildlife. Over the past several months they have reviewed their regulations concerning private captive deer and elk herds. It appears that they will have more and more headaches with diseased wildlife. The same can be said for USAHA. AVMA shares your concern and the Government Relations Division here in Washington is lobbying hard for the necessary funding to meet these problems.

*There is no royal road to anything. One thing at a time, and all things in succession. That which grows slowly endures.*  
Josiah Gilbert Holland

**1999/00 USAHA officers**

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Information for contacting these officers is available on the USAHA web page ([www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org)) or by calling the Association office at (804) 285-3210

## OIE Meets

from page 1

listed – such as Nipah Virus in Malaysia and West Nile Virus in the United States.

**Identification and Traceability of Animals** - It is clear from this report that OIE member countries consider animal identification and the ability to trace animals to their sources highly important. Several countries have mandatory identification and records systems that provide the ability to trace an animal back to its place of birth. The United Kingdom has initiated such a system as result of BSE. The report described and discussed the various means of animal identification that are available, including marks, brands, tattoos, ear tags, ear tags with bar codes, smart card ear tags (microchip), ear tags with radio transponder, implanted radio transponder and intraruminal pellet with radio transponder. To be effective, identification devices must be economical to producers and meet the demands of consumers for traceability to the point of origin. The primary take-home message is that a country will be required to have an animal identification system that provides traceability of animals and products back through the marketing chain to the point of origin of the animal.

**Working Group on Wildlife Diseases Report** - The report discussed the occurrence of a number of diseases in domestic livestock as result of transmission from wildlife species. These diseases include classical swine fever, anthrax, FMD, echinococcus, CWD, EHD/adenovirus hemorrhagic disease, tuberculosis and brucellosis. The report discussed a number of mechanisms for transmission of diseases from wildlife to domestic livestock, including translocation of wildlife. It also discussed possible interdiction strategies that a country might be able to utilize to contain or prevent the introduction of a

disease in wildlife, including risk analysis for wildlife translocations (risk posed by animals being translocated and risk posed by animals inhabiting the translocation site and the diseases of these animals) and compartmentalization (isolation) of domestic livestock from wildlife in disease endemic areas.

**Animal Welfare** - Animal welfare was a topic of discussion during several of the general sessions. Animal welfare is included as a topic for consideration in the OIE strategic plan. A number of countries, especially some countries in the European Union, are insistent that animal welfare be included as part of the SPS standards for international movement of animals and products. Many other countries do not believe animal welfare has a place in the animal health standards. These countries, including countries of the Americas, Africa and Asia, believe that animal welfare is a social, cultural and religious issue, not a scientific issue, and should not be part of the animal health requirements. Without doubt, this issue will be discussed extensively in the future.

**Antibiotic Resistance** - This report identified the same issues and concerns that we are dealing with in the United States. The report recognized the need for and encouraged harmonization of animal drug use protocols among member countries. The WHO member requested that OIE work closer with that body on issues of animal drug use and the issue of antibiotic resistance.

**Election of Officers** - The selection of officers was especially important this year in that it is the first time in many years, because of differing lengths of terms in office, that the term of the Director General and Presidents of the Administration and Commissions coincided.

Dr. Vallat, Chief Veterinary Officer of France, was selected as the incoming Director General of OIE. Three persons from the

United States were selected to serve on the Commissions. Dr. Alex Thiermann – President of the International Animal Health Code Commission; Dr. Beverley Schmitt (NVSL) – Secretary General of the Standards Commission; and Professor Donald Lightner (Arizona) – as a member of the Fish Diseases Commission. In addition to these elections, Dr. Alfonso Torres was selected to serve as Secretary General of the regional Commission for the Americas. These representatives will serve us well in the coming years.

The opportunity to attend the OIE meeting was informative and thought provoking. It is clear that we need to keep abreast of issues and events discussed at this prestigious meeting. It is also clear that we need to have input into decisions made by the OIE.

Our ability to adequately respond to these issues and events will determine our success in dealing with international animal health issues.

*Only he who keeps his eye on the far horizon will find his right road.  
Dag Hammarskjöld*

## North Central Meeting

from page 4

tion projects, slaughter surveillance, identification, laboratory validation and the proposed scrapie rule. In regards to the new proposed scrapie program, Dr. Reed stated the sheep industry demanded this action be taken.

Other issues for the Wednesday segment included: Dr. Mike Chaddock, Michigan State Veterinarian, updating of their TB program; Dr. I. Lee McPhail, Assistant Ohio State Veterinarian, presented the occurrence of swine brucellosis and pseudorabies virus (PRV) in one domestic and one feral/wild herd in southeast-

## North Central Meeting

from page 16

ern Ohio and their depopulation; Dr. Tom Hagerty, Minnesota State Veterinarian, reported on the Post PRV Eradication Summit held in Des Moines, Iowa; and Drs. Larry Schuler and Sam Holland, State Veterinarians in North and South Dakota respectively, updated the meeting on the occurrence of the disease in their states and the promulgation of rules. Wednesday evening's event centered around a working dinner during which Dr. Glen Hoffsis, Dr. Craig Reed and Dr. Ernie Zirkle presented their concerns and initiatives relative to today's animal agriculture.

On Thursday morning, Fred L. Dailey, Ohio's Director of Agriculture, extended his welcome to the meeting. He discussed the many issues facing agriculture, including the regulation of large farms, preservation of farmland, and the federal approval of interstate meat shipment from his perspective not only as a director of agriculture but also as the current NASDA President.

The focal point of Thursday's meeting centered around the TB situation in Michigan. Dr. John Clifford, USDA-APHIS-VS Assistant Deputy Administrator, and Dr. Zirkle lead the discussion. Specific areas discussed included monies committed to eradication, surveillance, wildlife management, increased laboratory capacity, program staffing and the proposed TB rule. Dr. Clifford announced that the comment period for the new proposed TB rule would be extended to include two public meetings.

Gary Weber, Executive Director of NCBA, and other state veterinarians expressed concern over the testing requirements for interstate movement contained in the proposed rule. A resolution was introduced for the purpose of developing consensus among the North Central states that they would not adopt more stringent import regulations than those contained in the proposed rule. After much discussion, the resolution

was not adopted.

Additional speakers making presentations on Thursday morning were Dan Vitiello, USDA/FSIS, an update on Animal Production Food Safety; Dr. Ralph Knowles, a progress report on electronic health certificates; and Dr. Larry Williams, Nebraska State Veterinarian, uniform certificates of veterinary inspection. The meeting concluded at noon.

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## Southern Meeting

from page 5

Dr. Arnold Taft reported good progress in the development of rule changes in the interstate movement of swine in multi-site production systems. The use of electronics to notify receiving states may soon replace the current use of certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI). Florida has developed computer-generated CVI's and asked other states to evaluate this program for potential expansion.

Currently, five states (Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas Louisiana, Mississippi) are participating in an agreement for routine interstate movement of horses. The "Equine Passport" replaces multiple CVI's for exhibition horses traveling state to state during any exhibition season. Several other states expressed an interest to participate in this program.

As the meeting was concluding, SAHA ratified a new Constitution and Bylaws and elected the following officers:

- President: Dr. Leroy Coffman - Florida
- President-Elect: Dr. Jones Bryan - S. Carolina
- Sec. Treas.: Dr. Conley Byrd - Arkansas

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## Western Meeting

from page 5

Dr. Dan Vitello discussed food safety issues. Residue violators' names will be placed on the Web. Packers will be held responsible for the products they sell.

Dr. Don Hansen discussed production level food safety in quality

assurance programs. The poultry industry admits their problems but it tells us what it is doing about them. The beef industry, in the past, has denied known problems. Dr. Hansen stated that in the absence of good science, the public will accept a "good faith effort to make food safe."

Drs. Gertonson, Hillman and Logan gave updates on the activities of the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Bison Committee and brucellosis management efforts around Yellowstone National Park.

Mr. Mike Kilpatrick and Dr. Glen Zearth discussed issues of concern to game farmers. Public perception is a primary concern of the game farm industry.

Dr. Bob Meyer discussed the tuberculosis outbreak in Michigan and the proposed tuberculosis rule.

The need for USAHA to review the structure and operation of APHIS/VS was discussed. We need to contact our congressional delegations concerning funding for APHIS/VS and the federal laboratories.

Dr. Marty Smith discussed NAHRS. The information provided is not under the freedom of information act. Participation is voluntary and the release of information could be detrimental to individuals.

Dr. Mike Marshall discussed EIA in Utah and the cooperative effort with the BLM to control the disease.

Dr. Bob Hillman gave an update on the activities of the USAHA Committee on Government Relations. It is attempting to improve veterinary accreditation, FAD and veterinary public career training. He also emphasized that we need to support the federal animal health programs and the laboratories. The need to consolidate all animal health regulations into one area or statute was discussed.

Dr. Arnold Gertonson was elected to position of WSLHA president for the next year. Dr. Rick Willer was reelected to the position of WSLHA secretary/treasurer.

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## President's Corner

from page 2

Dick McCapes' survey in 1996.

To be sure I give credit where deserved, I must note that there have been several accomplishments by Emergency Programs (EP):

- There has been a simulated foreign animal disease outbreak (NIMBY exercise) to test emergency preparedness.

- Foreign animal disease satellite training has been conducted that linked more than 2,000 national and international participants.

- Tripartite 2000, a three-part FMD exercise with Canada, Mexico, and United States industry, will be conducted this fall.

- EP had produced an Interim Rule banning the importation and interstate movement of tortoises known to harbor tick species that are potential vectors of heartwater and received a crisis exemption from EPA to use two pesticides to treat tick-infested tortoises and premises.

- I attended the Animals in Disaster Workshop for state partners and READEO section chiefs June 6-8 and was impressed by the enthusiasm and energy displayed by new employees who are trying to improve the quality of the EP programs. I am also gratified to hear there is a likelihood that the budget for EP may go from this year's appropriation of \$600,000 to between \$2.368 and \$3.627 million next year. We should see many more plans implemented with this budgetary increase.

- VS has established a rotational VMO position in the FMD program in Bolivia to facilitate FMD training of VMOs in the field.

- VS plans to send representatives to the OIE regional meeting on FMD in Asia to get a better understanding of the characteristics of the outbreaks in order to manage risk to the United States.

- VS also plans to facilitate more accurate risk assessment by

establishing a shared worldwide database that reports animal and plant diseases, veterinary capabilities, and export systems to the United States.

In other business, as I discussed in the January newsletter, the Executive Committee approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws permitting the Executive Committee to establish the amount of dues. This proposed change will be voted on by the general membership in Birmingham. Its passage will enable us to move forward with the Long Range Plan by hiring an Executive Director.

As you are aware, the draft changes to the entire Constitution and Bylaws will take two years to implement. The Constitution and Bylaws Task Force will have the final draft ready for distribution by September 1 and, in addition to sending a hard copy to the entire Executive Committee, will post it on the web site. Please study these revisions carefully as we will be discussing them during the Executive Committee and general membership meetings. With Executive Committee approval, the revisions would be voted on by the general membership at the 2001 annual meeting in Hershey, PA.

I have appointed a Finance Advisory and Audit Committee to assist the Treasurer. The responsibilities of this committee will be to:

- review the fiscal status of USAHA and the proposed expenditure for an Executive Director;
- advise the Treasurer;
- perform an annual audit;
- find innovative ways to enhance the treasury; and
- report annually to the Executive Committee.

After numerous visits to Washington to attend Animal Ag Coalition meetings, briefings and training sessions at Riverdale and visits to the USDA offices "down-town," I can emphatically state

that it is imperative for USAHA to have a presence in Washington. If we are not represented, we may not be aware of issues and policies that should have our input. We also need to join AAC, AVMA and others on issues such as funding, not only for laboratory and research facilities, but also for basic programs. Dr. Torres and his staff cannot lobby on the Hill or elsewhere for their needs, but they can answer our questions. It is then up to us to see that the information gets disseminated factually to the appropriators.

I also will be setting up a mechanism so that fact sheets and other informational documents can be electronically sent to committee chairs and the National Assembly for whatever action they deem appropriate.

Here's hoping you are well on your way in preparation for your role in Birmingham—and that it is an even more successful meeting than last year.

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## Swine Study

from page 7

tors with information on antibiotic use. The survey will help determine how many producers have adopted good production practices related to antibiotics.

Environmental data will also be collected for Swine 2000. Environmentally sound production practices related to nutrient management plans, manure storage and application, and carcass disposal will be measured and quantified.

For more information contact:

- Centers for Epidemiology and Animal health

- USDA: APHIS: VS Att: NAHMS

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