



USAHA

Protecting Animal and Public Health Since 1897

United States Animal Health Association Newsletter - Vol. 29, No. 3, July 2001

USDA FMD Activities On-going

Interest and concern about foot-and-mouth disease remains extremely high. The outbreaks have served to sharpen the awareness of the connection between animal health emergencies and a general emergency response.

In addition to stringent safeguarding measures already in place, USDA is undertaking a number of important activities including requesting supplemental appropriations, reviewing and rewriting compensation regulations, and strengthening emergency preparedness and contingency planning.

Earlier this year, in the wake of FMD outbreaks in Europe and other countries, Secretary Ann Veneman authorized \$32 million in spending for the hiring of 350 new inspection personnel and the doubling of canine inspection teams. This was in addition to nearly 400 inspectors already being hired during 2001 and another 200 being reassigned from other program areas.

“While we have been vigilant for years and have successfully prevented many foreign animal diseases from entering our country, recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease across the world and ongoing concerns about BSE underscore the need to strengthen our safeguarding system,” Secretary Veneman said.

USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) takes an integrated approach to protecting the United States from FMD and other diseases. This includes prohibiting shipments of products from high-risk countries; increasing personnel at ports

of entry; tightening regulatory enforcement; increasing surveillance of incoming passengers and cargo; enhancing monitoring and surveillance of domestic livestock; strengthening federal, state and industry coordination; implementing public education campaigns; and dispatching experts to other countries to assist in containment efforts. APHIS is continuing a top to bottom review of core animal and plant health programs to ensure it has the necessary resources to prevent foreign animal diseases from entering the United States and has the ability to eradicate such diseases should

- domestic surveillance;
- response to adverse animal health events.

USDA is in the process of reviewing and rewriting regulations addressing compensation issues as they would apply to an FMD outbreak. The most crucial component of a contingency plan for disease eradication is the rapid destruction of infected and exposed animals. USDA is looking at the regulations covering the appraisal of fair market value of animals and the payment of indemnity so as to provide greater flexibility in rapidly compensating eligible claimants. And, it is looking at simple methods of

**“Recent outbreaks... across the world
...underscore the need to strengthen our
safeguarding system” —Secretary Veneman**

they ever enter the country.

Currently, Veterinary Services (VS) is undertaking a Safeguarding Review which is nearing completion. The review, conducted by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), will thoroughly assess the performance and effectiveness of activities, procedures, policies and organizational infrastructure that make up the safeguarding system VS uses to protect animal health.

The safeguarding review team consists of leaders from industry and academia, state veterinarians and representatives of state departments of agriculture. The team is looking at four key areas:

- international information;
- exclusion activities;

determining fair market value, similar to the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program, to allow rapid fair market value of livestock.

The reviewing and rewriting of the regulations will most likely address indemnity payment for the purchase, destruction and disposition of animals required to be destroyed in order to control and eradicate the disease, as well as reimbursement of related expenses for cleaning and disinfection. Costs associated with vaccination of animals (if vaccination were used in response to the outbreak) are also under consideration.

The FMD outbreak in the European Union and other areas of the world has served to strengthen partnerships for

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News Briefs

- USAHA and AVMA have collaborated on a project for the **AVMA Convention** in Boston to broaden awareness of the Ames facilities project. Registrants at the convention will receive a stick-on button for their name badges that says "Fund Ames."
- **National Pseudorabies Eradication Program** continues, as the number of PRV-quarantined herds declines: Iowa, 24; Nebraska, 27; and New Jersey, 1.
- Oklahoma and Florida bring the list of **Brucellosis-free** states to 48.
- National **Tuberculosis eradication** efforts continue: Two positive herds in Michigan are being monitored.
- A draft version of a proposal (based on HR4801) to overhaul the **Animal Health Protection Act**, recently introduced to the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture, can be viewed on-line at www.usaha.org. Email comments and concerns to ernest.zirkle@ag.state.nj.us or tshagerty@worldnet.att.net.
- USAHA has declared the **Master Plan** its number one priority. USAHA sent letters accompanying Resolution Number One and the *Special Edition* newsletter to President Bush, Secretary of Agriculture Veneman, 107th Congress, members of USAHA and AAVLD, and various stakeholder groups nationwide.
- The **President's 2001 budget** included \$9 million for planning the animal biocontainment facilities and improving infrastructure at the three laboratories in Ames, Iowa, under four options:
 - Original Master Plan—9 years/\$440 million
 - Accelerated Implementation of original plan—5 years/\$430 million
 - Alternative Phasing—9 years/\$452 million
 - Independent Agency Modernization—9 years/\$548 million
- Two dairy industry groups are shopping a \$1.4 billion Johne's disease indemnity program before Congress. Its designers hope to encourage producers to remove Johne's-inspected cows, about 3.6 percent of the nation's herd over a seven-year period. If the idea flies, the program could begin as early as Oct. 1, 2002.

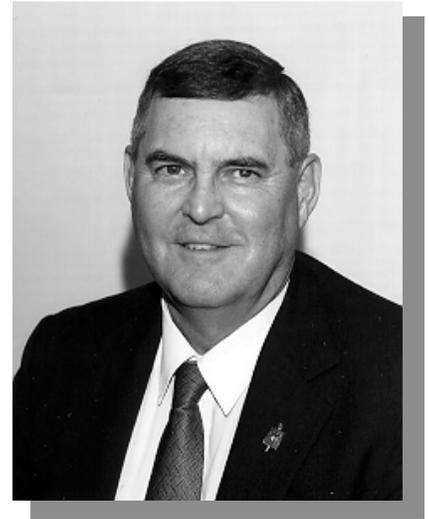
USAHA People

- Several states have had changes to the State Veterinarian's post:
 - Dr. J. Lee Alley** has retired as Alabama State Veterinarian. He continues to maintain an office at the Department of Agriculture.
 - Dr. Tom Hagerty** retired as the Minnesota State Veterinarian in June.
 - Dr. Mike Chaddock** will be leaving the state of Michigan in September for a new position in Washington, D.C. He's resigned his office as President-Elect of USAHA
- Dr. **Maxwell Lea** has taken over planning and preparations for the annual USAHA meeting, following the resignation of Dr. Mike Chaddock.
- Thanks to Dr. **Dick McCapes** for many years of service to USAHA as he retires from his post as Newsletter editor.
- Dr. **Fred D. Maurer**, 92, born in Moscow, Idaho, May 4, 1909, passed away June 5, 2001. The Colonel had a distinguished Army career for 23 years, then served as Associate Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M for 12 years. He was known internationally in the field of veterinary medicine.

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Bob Hillman, DVM



I hope that you are having a great summer. During the past several months I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you. I know from these conversations that most—if not all of you—have had very busy schedules. Since the last annual meeting, much has happened or is happening in the animal health arena.

All of you are very well aware of the foot-and-mouth situation in the world around us. I am pleased to be able to say that, as of this writing, the United States is free of this dreaded disease. I do not believe we should be patting ourselves on the back for preventing introduction of FMD—the disease continues to spread around the world. We must treat the FMD outbreaks in the United Kingdom and other countries as opportunities to review and upgrade our animal health safeguarding system and emergency response capabilities—on the national and state levels. To this end, several Board of Directors members, USAHA members and I have been involved with USDA staff to review the various components of our safeguarding and response system, recommend improvements and work toward implementation of these improvements into the system. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done.

By now you will have received your copy of the *Special Edition* newsletter. This issue supports the Master Plan for Facility Consolidation and Modernization of the USDA labs at Ames, which was identified at our 2000 annual meeting as the number one priority for USAHA during 2001. Special thanks goes to Dr. Dick McCapes and Mr. Bob Frost for the countless hours that went into development of this issue. The newsletter has been presented to the President, the Secretary of Agriculture and her key staff, Agriculture Committee members and

other key legislators. Copies are being mailed to each member of Congress.

Secretary Veneman included a funding request for the Ames laboratory facilities in her budget request. Additionally, key members of Congress are working to provide funding for the Master Plan. Support for an updated laboratory system appears to be increasing. We need to take this opportunity to solidify support for the lab project. I encourage each of you to utilize the *Special Edition* newsletter as a resource to write, call or visit your congressman and ask him to support funding for the Master Plan.

Many of you will recall that a bill (HB4801) to re-codify and update **USDA's animal health authority** was introduced into Congress last year, but was not supported by many of our membership and ultimately died. Many people recognized that re-codification and upgrading of USDA authority was needed. I was asked to coordinate a meeting of our membership (including members from the National Assembly and the Animal Agriculture Coalition) in an effort to re-energize efforts to develop proposed legislation all could support. In April a group of state veterinarians, industry representatives and congressional staffers met in Riverdale with USDA animal health and legal staff to discuss agency needs, answer questions and work toward consensus on language. The result of this effort is a new bill, HR2002, which was introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Pombo and Peterson in late May. The language in the new bill is very close to language agreed to by the work group (only has some minor wordsmithing changes). The bill does not contain pre-emption language that many found objectionable in the previous bill. We expect congressional subcommittee hearings within the next few weeks. As currently written, I believe

the vast majority of our membership can support HR2002. If approved as written, the bill will provide the authority USDA needs to address animal health issues.

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) **Safeguarding Review** of USDA is progressing. The committees are expected to provide their reports to the Review Committee in late July. The Review Committee will then proceed with writing of the final safeguarding review report.

The safeguarding report, coupled with the ongoing efforts to review and improve our animal health emergency management system, are vitally important activities for improving our abilities to address animal health issues in the United States. Many members of USAHA have been involved in these activities. I want to express my sincere appreciation for their tireless efforts.

The 2001 annual meeting is rapidly approaching. Dr. Lea and Dr. Pat Blanchard are working to develop a joint USAHA-AAVLD general session agenda that will address timely topics. This joint general session will require some adjustment to our schedule of events. Please look closely at the meeting agenda when you receive it so you do not miss an important event.

I also request you obtain hotel reservations as early as possible to assure you will be able to secure rooms at the convention hotel at the special rate.

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Secretary's Corner

J. Lee Alley, DVM

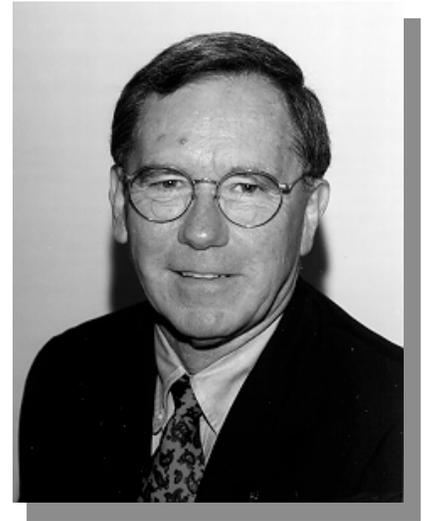
USAHA is a unique organization in that it provides a forum for communication and coordination among state and federal governments, universities, industry and other groups on issues of animal health, disease eradication and prevention, welfare, food safety, and public health. Through its membership, USAHA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

Membership numbers are important to USAHA's ability to affect public policy discussions and to accomplish its mission.

Membership is the lifeblood of all effective associations or organizations.

Currently, USAHA has 1,040 members who have paid their 2001 dues. This membership includes 804 individuals, 26 allied organization members, 49 state animal health officials, the United States, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian governments, 8 regional delegates, and 148 life members. Of the individual membership for 2000, 129 members have not paid their 2001 dues. So far, USAHA has 56 new members who joined in 2001.

We need to be working to recruit new members. Please visit with colleagues and



co-workers regarding the benefits of USAHA membership and encourage them to join the association. A membership brochure is available from the Richmond office to aid in recruiting new members. Please contact Linda or Beverly at the main office for copies of the membership brochure.



First, I would like to thank Dr. Dick McCapes for all of his hard work as the editor of the USAHA newsletter. I am excited about working on this publication, and certainly hope to live up to the standards set by Dr. McCapes as he retires from his post as USAHA newsletter editor.

You might notice a few changes in this edition. On the inside cover, I added a section for news briefs and a section titled "USAHA People". I have hope these two features will help to serve as a quick

reference on important newsworthy events. Feel free to submit information you feel should be published in future issues to serve our membership better.

I also hope to receive more articles from each state. My goal is to publish feature stories that highlight unique or interesting state programs. This feature will hopefully serve as a forum for USAHA members to share their experiences and offer alternatives to problem-solving in other states.

I look forward to working with everyone on this newsletter. Again, please feel free to send any articles that you feel are timely issues or appropriate for the next edition. My Public Information staff members, Denise Derrer and Shandy Froedge, will be assisting me with production and layout. We can receive articles at animalhealth@boah.state.in.us.

Editor's Note

Bret D. Marsh, DVM

If you have questions, suggestions or feedback you can email me directly at bmarsh@boah.state.in.us or call (317) 227-0300. Feedback is always welcome.

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USAHA Newsletter is published by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health.

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APHIS Policies for Wildlife in an FMD Emergency

By John Fischer, DVM

On Apr. 20, 2001, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) hosted a meeting to discuss wildlife issues regarding foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and to maintain open communication between animal health and wildlife management agencies.

The meeting was attended by individuals representing state and federal wildlife management and animal health agencies, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), and wildlife-oriented non-governmental organizations.

Dr. Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services, USDA, APHIS-VS, discussed APHIS policies regarding wildlife in a potential FMD emergency. APHIS believes that FMD most likely would be self-limiting in wildlife in the long term. The most efficient method of controlling FMD will be immediate removal of infected and exposed domestic animals to prevent transmission of FMD to other livestock or wildlife. Dr. Torres stated that APHIS does not have plans to systematically kill or depopulate wildlife to control FMD. However, in the short term, preventing transmission of FMD between domestic and wild animals will be critical. Immediate surveillance of susceptible free-ranging species, primarily wild ruminants and feral swine, potentially exposed to infected livestock is warranted to determine whether FMD has spread to wildlife. This will entail lethal collection of these species for diagnostic testing. Additionally, local reduction of the density of susceptible wildlife populations in an infected zone would be employed to prevent the spread of FMD if wildlife were identified as a risk factor. Long-term observation in the area also is warranted to ascertain that FMD has not become established in wildlife.

Involvement of state and other appropriate wildlife management agencies is essential in planning and implementing wildlife-related work in an emergency. These policies and procedures may change as additional information becomes available through research or while monitoring an outbreak.

The need to develop additional information on FMD in wild species was identified. Funds are being sought for experiments to evaluate clinical disease and viral shedding in native North American



species, such as bison and pronghorn. Additional research projects are needed to assess the potential for non-susceptible wild species, such as birds, to serve as mechanical carriers of the virus.

Dr. Torres also discussed the concept of “compartmentalization” of animal diseases with respect to international trade. In short, the presence of a particular disease in free-ranging wildlife may not affect the “disease free” status of a country, providing no apparent transmission of the disease to domestic livestock. The implication of this policy is that there would be no economic-based pressures to depopulate wild animals to control a disease not affecting domestic animals, provided disease transmission between wild and domestic animals is mitigated. Regardless, the ultimate goal

will be eradication of the disease from all animals within the country, whether domestic or wild.

The recent meeting reaffirmed the network that exists between animal health and wildlife resource agencies. For decades, state and federal wildlife management agencies have worked with APHIS to protect the health of wild and domestic animals. In the early 1980s, Memoranda of Understanding were signed between APHIS and the wildlife management agencies of all 50 states, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of the Interior, to acknowledge formally the cooperative effort required to eradicate or control certain animal diseases. There is open communication between APHIS and wildlife agencies through the Fish and Wildlife Health Task Force of the IAFWA, as well as through a Cooperative Agreement between APHIS and SCWDS. Under this Agreement, SCWDS serves as liaison between animal health and wildlife agencies to provide information, training, and recommendations to prevent or control animal diseases via a network of wildlife liaisons representing 52 state and territorial wildlife agencies.

Veterinary Services, through SCWDS, is currently developing additional guidelines for wildlife aspects of the emergency response to a highly contagious animal disease. These guidelines will be added to a revised document originally made available Mar. 30, 2001, and will be disseminated to all state wildlife resource agencies. Original guidelines and other information regarding FMD are available at the APHIS website at www.aphis.usda.gov.

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Yellowstone Bison Management Plan

What Happened, What Does it Mean, and What's Next?

By Valerie Ragan, DVM



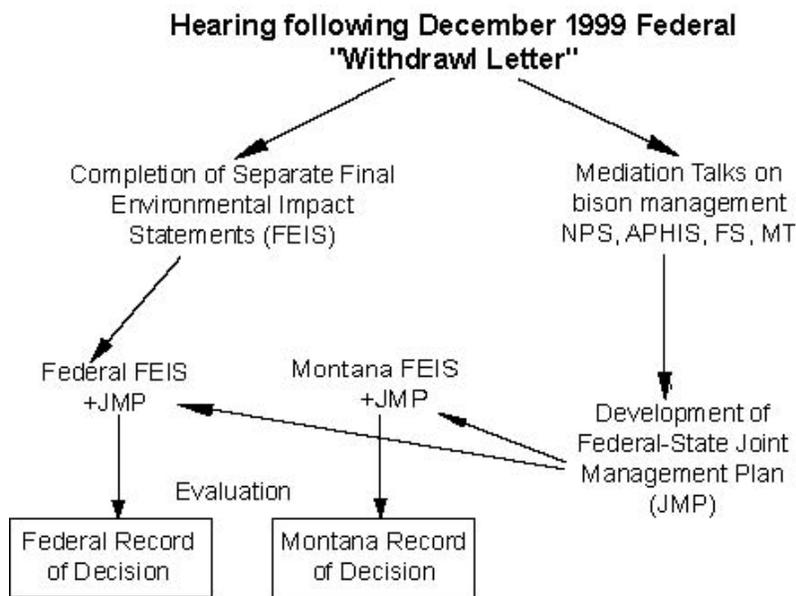
In December 2000, a Record of Decision (ROD) for a bison management plan for the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park (YNP) was signed by the former Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. The bison herd in YNP is affected with brucellosis, and this ROD was the culmination of a planning process in excess of 10 years, including intense mediation discussions for 8 months, regarding the management of bison that leave YNP and enter Montana. Cooperating agencies were the Department of the Interior (National Park Service), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service and APHIS). The State of Montana, which was also involved in the mediation discussions, has published its own ROD, incorporating the same bison management plan.

There has been a lot of misunderstanding concerning a letter sent from the federal agencies to the Governor of Montana in December 1999, in which the federal agencies proposed to withdraw from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the joint completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the state of Montana. This was due to an inability of the parties to reach agreement on several critical issues. At a hearing on the matter, the court agreed that the federal agencies could withdraw

from the MOU; however, all parties also agreed to attempt to resolve their differences with the use of a court-appointed mediator. As a result of the hearing, the federal agencies and the state of Montana worked independently to finalize their individual EIS analyses, while representatives of each agency worked together to develop a mutually acceptable joint management plan (JMP). After intense negotiations, the agencies were finally able to agree to a JMP that was a slightly modified version of the plan that had been evaluated as part of the separate EIS processes for the federal agencies and the state of Montana. The JMP was ultimately incorporated in both the federal final ROD, as well as the Montana ROD. This means that although the federal agencies and Montana each developed a separate environmental impact analysis, each group

still elected to adopt the same bison management plan. The diagram below should help illustrate the process that occurred.

The plan that was developed is not intended to be a brucellosis eradication plan, but a plan for the management of bison, intended to prevent transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle. When bison leave YNP and enter Montana, management responsibilities and authorities change. Within YNP, the Secretary of the Interior has exclusive jurisdiction to manage the bison. Outside YNP, Montana has management authority. The U.S. Forest Service has the responsibility to provide a habitat for bison on national forest lands outside YNP. APHIS is required to control and prevent the spread of communicable and contagious diseases of livestock. In spite of these various responsibilities, the agencies recognize the importance of



Separate environmental impact analyses led to the adoption of the same bison management plan.

cooperating in the management of bison in and around YNP. Therefore, this plan is a compromise that had to satisfy some rather divergent mandates among the involved agencies.

The plan involves a series of three adaptive management steps, in which future management actions can be adjusted, based on knowledge gained during implementation of the proposed risk management actions. These steps initially will include hazing bison back into the Park. When hazing is no longer effective, agencies will capture and test bison and a limited number of seronegative animals will be released. Captured vaccination-eligible animals will be vaccinated.

Seronegative pregnant bison may also be released under very strictly monitored conditions. Proposed dates for the removal of bison are in the plan with the ultimate date being decided by the Montana State Veterinarian. Adaptive management steps progress through the

years until Step 3, when a limited number of untested bison will be allowed outside the park. This will occur only when all of a set of criteria are met, including: bacterial viability and fetal disappearance research sufficient to determine an adequate temporal separation period, in-Park vaccination of bison has begun and is ongoing, a demonstrated ability to enforce spatial separation exists, and the number of bison in Zone 2 (limited area outside the park) can be controlled.

In addition to the adaptive management steps, bison will also be managed in zones, using topography and progressively more intense management. Zone 1 is an area inside YNP where bison will be subject to hazing as they approach park boundaries. Zone 2 is a defined area outside the park where bison will be managed for spatial and temporal separation, lethal removal for private property concerns, bison tolerance limits (up to 100) and bison park population size (3,000). Zone 3 is an area where bison

are not permitted and will be subject to lethal removal.

The plan also incorporates certain livestock management provisions including vaccination and testing of cattle in the vicinity, and sets a bison population target. APHIS will provide funds for the direct costs of the livestock management. In reviewing the plan, it is important to consider this document in its entirety, rather than extracting single sentences or paragraphs out of context, as many proposed actions are dependent on specific criteria being met. Now that this plan has been completed, APHIS fully intends to work with the other agencies toward the development of a brucellosis elimination plan for the Greater Yellowstone Area. This plan will include elk, and will necessarily be quite broad and complex in scope.

Dr. Valerie Ragan is the National Brucellosis Eradication Coordinator for USDA, APHIS-VS.

Animal Health Protection Act

By Ernest Zirkle, DVM

The attempt to modernize and update the statutes under which USDA operates culminated in bill HR 4801 during the 106th session of Congress. These updates were led by the Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC), which had done extensive background work developing the document. A few components of HR 4801 were of concern to members of the National Assembly of Chief Livestock Health Officials (NACLHO). As the session was drawing to a close, the bill was withdrawn.

In April 2001, Bob Hillman, President of USAHA, and Leah Becker of the National Pork Producers Council co-hosted a meeting of various stakeholders in Riverdale where the issues were discussed and a draft document was

developed based upon the August 2000 version of HR 4801. Christopher R. D'arcy, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture, and Rob Larew, Legislative Director, Office of Rep. Collin Peterson, spoke to the group and requested that the document be sent to them as soon as there was a consensus that all issues were addressed.

HR 2002 has been introduced by Chairman Pombo and Ranking Member Peterson of the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture. This document can be reviewed on our web site www.usaha.org. If you have any comments or concerns regarding this document, send them to ernest.zirkle@ag.state.nj.us or tshagerty@worldnet.att.net. We will see that they are addressed.

On the Senate side, members of AAC have met with staffers of the Agriculture Subcommittee who are reviewing the document with the goal of introducing it very soon. Hearings on these documents will be at the subcommittee level, but no date has been set.

It is of utmost importance that this legislation is passed so that USDA, APHIS-VS has the necessary tools to deal with invasion of any foreign animal disease promptly and effectively. It is just as important that the legislation be developed so that the relationship between States and USDA provides for maximum cooperation in controlling and eradicating domestic diseases.

Dr. Ernest Zirkle is the New Jersey State Veterinarian.

Master Plan Update

By Bob Frost and Dick McCapes, DVM

USDA has requested funding for a new facility in Ames, Iowa, referred to as the ARS-APHIS Modernization Master Plan. The proposal will replace facilities used by the APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB), the ARS National Animal Disease Center (NADC) and APHIS-National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

The USAHA has produced a *Special Edition* newsletter to provide Congress and others with information about NVSL, CVB, and NADC; the critically important role these facilities play in the protection of animal and public health in the U.S.; facility needs; and how the Master Plan proposes to address these needs.

In a report sent to Secretary of Agriculture Veneman, an International Expert Review Team described the Master Plan as “urgent; status quo is not

an acceptable option; should be considered a national emergency.” The USAHA Resolution Number One supporting the Master Plan was developed at the 104th annual meeting in Birmingham, and was unanimously passed by the membership.

In late May, Secretary Veneman sent her report on the Master Plan (mandated by the 106th Congress) to the Subcommittee on Agriculture and the Committee on Appropriations in the House and Senate. The 18-page report “deals with major animal research and diagnostic facilities, a master plan to accomplish the needs of two agencies’ missions, and a timeline that speaks to priorities and costs.”

The Secretary emphasized to Congress “our Nation’s economy and public health

are at stake” and the Ames laboratory facilities are “grossly debilitated and inadequate for animal health programs of high national priority,” and “facilities must be modernized.”

USAHA’s number one priority is to continue support of the Master Plan and urge acceleration of this project to safeguard this nation’s animal health and trade, and to protect the citizens of the United States from food-borne diseases, bioterrorism, and emerging foreign animal diseases.

Congress needs to hear that you strongly endorse the need for the United States to have state-of-the-art animal disease laboratory facilities. Your help is needed to tell your Congressional representatives to provide funds for the five-year accelerated plan.

Timeline for USAHA Action on the Master Plan

1998, 1999

- USAHA learns of serious condition, infrastructure problems of Ames laboratories at the Government Relations Committee meeting
- USAHA newsletter articles portray serious conditions, program limitations at Ames and Plum Island laboratories

2000

- July** •USAHA fact finding team revisits Ames
- Sept.** •106th Congress approves \$9 million for development of planning costs for Master Plan
- Oct.** •USAHA 104th Annual Meeting, Resolution Number One supporting Master Plan passed unanimously

2001

- Jan.** •USAHA sends Secretary of Agriculture Glickman Resolution Number One
- ARS invites International Expert Review Team to Ames to evaluate Master Plan, existing facilities
- International Expert Review Team sends report to Secretary of Agriculture
- USAHA sends letters, Resolution Number One to President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Veneman
- Feb.** •ARS, APHIS announce International Expert Review Team’s full endorsement of Master Plan
- Apr.** •USAHA sends 535 individual letters, Resolution Number One to 107th Congress
- May** •U.S. Budget Resolution for 2002 supports Master Plan
- Budget Conference Report prioritizes modernizing Ames in 5-year, \$420 million “Accelerated Implementation”
- USAHA sends 2,100 *Special Edition* to USAHA and AAVLD members, key members of Congress, AVMA, AAC, State Veterinarians, and Iowa coalitions
- June** •USAHA sends cover letter, 535 individual *Special Edition* newsletters to entire 107th Congress

Larry Mark

www.usaha.org

I'm pleased to report that our web pages continue to get a good bit of traffic and stimulate a number of inquiries regarding animal and poultry diseases (some, I might add, are really "off the wall"). For the most part, I forward those emails to the appropriate committee chair or USAHA officer for a response.

Thanks to all of you who helped provide answers to questions about animal health. (Remember: When you respond, send me an email copy so I can keep current and improve my knowledge!)

As of early June, our "visitor count"

on the home page stood at just over 38,000 for the 3.5 years that our web site has been active!

In early March, we set up a special page with links to a number of sites with excellent information on the foot-and-mouth outbreak in the UK and other European countries. I've been especially gratified by the response—2,207 "hits" in just over three months!

More recently, in late May, we posted another page under our "hot issues" column—this one on the Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS) in Kentucky. So far, we've had about 70 hits on that page.

The information from our 2000 annual meeting in Birmingham is now online and we'll be posting material on the upcoming meeting in Hershey.

From time to time, I receive emails from folks wanting to post information on our Bulletin Board. When I post something, I put a footnote (in pink) indicating the Bulletin Board has a new item as of a date. So check that footnote to find out when something is new. If you have something that's appropriate, please email me at the address below.

Larry Mark serves as USAHA Webmaster
E-mail: webmaster@usaha.org

Warning Signs: Some Recent Occurrences of Disruptive Animal Diseases*

Disease	Last outbreak	Recent outbreak	Country	Species affected	Impact of outbreak
Foot & Mouth Disease	1981	2001	United Kingdom	Cattle, sheep, swine	In addition to the loss of animals, farmers could lose \$73 million each week that the ban on transport and marketing continues.
Foot & Mouth Disease	1934	2000	South Korea	Cattle	Potential loss of \$400 million in exports (swine)
Foot & Mouth Disease	1908	2000	Japan	Cattle, swine	Enormous government effort to check farms for additional cases
Foot & Mouth Disease	1998	2000	South Africa	Swine, cattle, sheep, goats	To be determined; threat of spread to wildlife
Foot & Mouth Disease	unknown	1997 2001	Taiwan	Swine	3.5 million hogs destroyed; cost estimated at \$6 billion; disruption of a \$1.55 billion-a-year (U.S.) pork export industry. New outbreak reported 2/26/01.
Foot & Mouth Disease	1994	2000	Argentina	Cattle	Planned \$5 billion expansion of exports disrupted.
Foot & Mouth Disease	Disease present	2000	Brazil	Cattle	Increased vaccination; loss of export from disease-free regions
Foot & Mouth Disease	1994	2000	Paraguay	Cattle	To be determined
Foot & Mouth Disease	1973	2001	Mongolia	Cattle, sheep, goats, camels	Disease spreading; vaccination program initiated
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	Never before reported	1986	United Kingdom	Cattle	Major disruption of cattle industry
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	Never before reported	2000 2001	Germany, Portugal, Italy, Spain Denmark	Cattle	European Union's Executive Office estimated that dealing with BSE in Europe would cost about \$1 billion per 6 months.
Hog Cholera	1987	2000	United Kingdom	Swine	16 confirmed cases; 75,000 pigs slaughtered and 190,000 pigs removed from entry into food chain; pig meat production down 10%; impact expected to hurt hog industry for two years because of impact on breeding program
Hog Cholera		1997	Dominican Republic	Swine	Spread from Haiti to Dominican Republic; between 1997 and 1999, slaughter of 17,000 pigs and vaccination of 1.3 million pigs; concern of potential spread to U. S.
Hog Cholera	1984	1997	Netherlands	Swine	Slaughter of 8 million pigs; costs estimated at \$2.3 billion
Nipah Virus	Never before reported	1998 1999	Malaysia	Swine, humans, cats, dogs	One million pigs eradicated; 200 people infected with 100 fatalities
West Nile Virus	Never before reported	1999	United States	Birds, horses, humans	First identified in New York City; carried by birds and mosquitos; spread to four states in 1999 and to 12 states and the District of Columbia in 2000; causes severe neurologic infections in humans, horses, and/or other mammal species

* We thank the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics (IICAB), Iowa State University for developing this table utilizing ProMed and OIE sources.

Erratum: Table 2 on page 24 of the *USAHA Newsletter Special Edition: USDA's Ames Laboratories, June 2001 (Vol. 28, No. 2)*,² contained two errors in Row 2 and should read as shown in the corrected Table 2 (6/7/01) above.²

President's Corner, continued from pg. 4

During the past several months I have had the opportunity to attend the four USAHA District meetings. Although my schedule would not allow me to participate fully in all the activities of these meetings, these trips have been rewarding to have the opportunity to attend and visit with many of you. The diversity in our animal industries across the country becomes very apparent when one travels from region to region of our great country. It is also apparent that the strength of our association lies in each and every one of our members. The sharing of ideas and thoughts at these meetings results in proposed action items at the annual meeting. These proposed action items become recommendations for improvement to our programs or the development of new strategies to address emerging diseases or issues. I commend each of you as you work to improve animal health in the United States.

Have a good summer and make plans for the annual meeting in Hershey, Pa.

District Reports

Western District

by Jim Logan, DVM

The annual meeting of the Western States Livestock Health Association (WSLHA) was held at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nev., Mar. 7-8. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Western District USAHA (WDUSAHA) and the Western Region of the National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors. In addition, members of the Western States Livestock Investigators Association participated on Mar. 8.

Meeting topics included discussions and/or presentations on Trichomoniasis, a Joint Management Plan for Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area, an APHIS Update, Animal Health Protection Act, Importation of Mexican Cattle, Scrapie, and a National Animal Health Emergency Management Update.

During the business meeting, the group decided to designate someone, other than the officers, to devote sufficient time and energy to follow up on important issues between meetings and report to the group. Dr. Calvin Lum, of Hawaii, was selected for that responsibility.

Dr. Arnold Gertonson completed his term as President of WSLHA and WDUSAHA. Dr. Jim Logan, Wyoming State Veterinarian, was elected President of WSLHA and WDUSAHA. Dr. Rick Willer, Arizona State Veterinarian, accepted election to another term as Secretary of WSLHA; he does an outstanding job in this position.

The next meeting of WSLHA will be held in conjunction with the USAHA meeting in Hershey, Pa. in November.

Northeast District

by Wes Towers, DVM

Delaware was host to the spring meeting of the Northeast United States Animal Health Association. The location of this year's meeting was the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington. There was a total of 94 attendees from 11 states and Canada.

On April 30, the first day of the meeting, two groups met concurrently. The first, chaired by Dr. Donald Lein, dealt with rabies in the northeast. The second, chaired by Dr. Robert Whitlock, discussed the current aspects of Johne's disease, its diagnosis and control.

The full meeting of the Northeast USAHA began on May 1. Attendees heard interesting and informative reports on West Nile virus, BSE, animal bioterrorism, avian influenza in the New York-New Jersey live bird markets and equine EVA. The main topic of this meeting, however, was the current foot-and-mouth disease situation in Great Britain. Secretary Sam Hayes of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture chaired this special session. APHIS officials and Emergency Programs' personnel presented an update on the worldwide situation, as well as this country's progress in developing emergency preparedness plans. Secretaries of Agriculture from Delaware, Maryland, and New York were also on hand to give their perspectives on the need to develop emergency plans. The meeting generated productive discussion on the entire gamut of this potentially devastating disease situation. To round-out further the discussion on FMD, the group had the benefit of hearing first-hand the experiences of Dr. Don Hoening, who had just returned from spending a month in England helping with the eradication effort.

Dr. Wes Towers will remain president for the next year.

North Central District

by Larry Schuler, DVM

Members of the North Central District (NCUSAHA) met May 1-2, 2001, at the Kelly Inn in Bismarck, N.D. The meeting, hosted by the North Dakota State Board of Animal Health, was attended by approximately 45 state, federal and industry representatives, including Dr. Bob Hillman, USAHA President, and Dr. Jan Huber, Acting Western Regional Director.

North Dakota's Agriculture Commissioner, Roger Johnson, welcomed the meeting participants.

Dr. Charlie Stoltenow, North Dakota Extension Veterinarian, presented information on the anthrax outbreak in the region during the summer of 2000—the largest in recent history.

Dr. John Weimers, National ID Coordinator, discussed animal identification and the need for a national animal identification system. Dr. Weimers presented information on the American Identification Number (AIN) System.

Dr. Robert Meyers, Western Region Tuberculosis Epidemiologist, reviewed the current status of bovine tuberculosis in the United States, including an update on Michigan.

Dr. Larry White, the North Dakota AVIC and a Chief of Field Operations of the Western READEO, offered a presentation on the READEO's structure, function and activation of an animal disease emergency.

Dr. Tom Hagerty, State Veterinarian of Minnesota, led a discussion on Johne's disease. The discussion included the current status of state programs as well as the direction of Johne's control nationally.

As president of the National Assembly of Chief Livestock Health Officials, Dr. Tom Hagerty discussed recent movements regarding the Animal Health Protection Act.

USAHA Government Relations

by Mack Lea, DVM

North Central Report continued

Dr. Jan Huber provided an update on the status of foot-and-mouth disease in the UK as well as the state of readiness in the United States.

State reports concerning issues each is facing were presented. Dr. Bob Hillman provided a discussion of issues facing USAHA. His attendance was greatly appreciated.

New officers for the coming year were elected: Dr. John Schiltz, Iowa State Veterinarian, President; Mr. George Teagarden, Director of Animal Industry, Kansas Department of Agriculture, President-elect; and Dr. Clarence Siroky, Wisconsin State Veterinarian, Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Bret Marsh, Indiana State Veterinarian was elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Mike Chaddock as President-elect.

A dues increase was discussed and approved by the membership. NCUSAHA approved two resolutions:

Resolution #1: Supports increased funding for Johne's disease research, leading to improved diagnostic tests. Also supports additional USDA funding for state-administered testing and education programs for ruminants.

Resolution#2: Recommends President of USAHA and the Chairman of the USAHA's Johne's Disease Committee re-evaluate the need for the National Johne's Working Group (NJWG) relative to its mission. This may include consideration of dissolution of the NJWG, with its assignments to be delegated to the appropriate subcommittee of the USAHA Johne's Disease Committee and encourage participation by the affected industries.

The USAHA Government Relations Committee met in Washington D.C., Feb. 12-15, 2001. The meeting was attended by 42 USAHA and AAVLD members. In addition to the Government Relations Committee, the USAHA Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs were invited to attend. The AAVLD Executive Board met on Sunday, Feb. 11, and many members took advantage of the opportunity to hear from our colleagues in Washington.

Meeting participants were exposed to a wide array of topics dealing with animal health from both government officials and the private sector.

Government agencies that took part in the meeting included FDA, USDA Wildlife Services, CSREES, FSIS, Agriculture Research Service and of course there was major input from APHIS.

Industry and private animal agriculture enterprises were represented by the Animal Agriculture Coalition and AVMA. In addition, reports were given concerning the preparations being made to counter the threat of bioterrorism and a report from NASDA on its activities.

The Master Plan to rebuild and redo NVSL and the other USDA animal health facilities in Ames was the primary topic of discussion. It is an issue that has top priority with all animal health organizations and individuals no matter their affiliation. The drastic need to bring our diagnostic and research facilities up to world class status cannot be over emphasized as the United States moves more and more toward a global economy.

nearly everyone involved in animal agriculture. It has also pointed to areas that need attention, questions that need to be answered, and operating procedures that need to be in place.

In March, Secretary Veneman encouraged a dialog that has transitioned into working groups. She asked Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California State Veterinarian, to convene meetings on topics that included FMD awareness; catastrophic disease response; exclusion; import/export issues; research priorities; quarantine and movement control and outreach to Native Americans.

The suggestions and ideas that came from the working groups are being used to produce federal operational and procedural manuals that can be used as model products by state, industry and private practitioners. Drafts of these response guidelines are expected to be available at USAHA this fall. In another instance, the Import/Export Working Group made action recommendations for three major areas: import protocols, regionalization and equivalency. The issue of Native American sovereignty is complex. The outreach meeting, with representatives from more than 40 tribes, laid the groundwork for policies and procedures in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak on tribal lands.

The outbreaks were responsible for a number of other activities including: regular conference calls with the chief veterinary officers of Canada, Mexico and the U.S., as well as regular conference calls with agriculture commissioners; with assistance from the American Veterinary Medical Association, established, before the outbreak, a roster of private veterinarians able to be activated; and by early June nearly 200 veterinarians and animal health technicians had been deployed to the UK to assist in eradication efforts. The teams include federal, state, and academic veterinarians and private practitioners. APHIS has been working with other Federal partners so that additional resources for animal health emergencies would be available through the Federal Response Plan.

Annual Meeting Update

The USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 1-8, 2001, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pa. The hotel reservation form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Reservations:

Please complete and return the form to the hotel as soon as possible: call (717) 533-3311 or FAX (717) 534-8668. for reservations. Reservations must be made by Oct. 1, 2001 or you will not be guaranteed a room at the convention rate. If USAHA members do not fill the hotel block, the organization will be liable to pay for the meeting space and this is very costly.

Be sure to complete the enclosed annual meeting registration form and return it by Sept. 28, 2001, along with your check made out to USAHA. Anyone sending a check from outside the United States, please make your check payable in U.S. dollars to an American bank.

Refunds:

The policy regarding refunds for preregistrants who are unable to attend the meeting is to withhold \$25 to cover processing and handling. Your request for a refund must be made in writing within seven days after the close of the meeting.

Agenda:

This year's meeting has some changes, so be sure to review the Tentative Agenda.

Tours:

Information is enclosed for two tours:

- Sunday, Nov. 4, The Gettysburg Tours; and
- Tuesday, Nov. 6, The Longwood Gardens & Winterthur Museum Tour.

We look forward to seeing you in Hershey. Please be sure to preregister by Sept. 28th and save yourself \$25!

Joint TSE Symposium

By Pat Blanchard, DVM, Ph.D.

In 2001, USAHA and AAVLD will co-sponsor a joint session to share scientific information of mutual interest and benefit to both organizations.

The topic selected for this year's session is Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy. The joint session will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting in Hershey on Monday, Nov. 5, 2001. The session will focus on information related to TSE's.

The topics to be covered include:

Validation studies of current tests being used in Europe as well as the epidemiology of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Europe by Dr. Marcus Doherr, a veterinary epidemiologist, who spearheads

epidemiological TSE research in Switzerland and was involved in the validation of the Prionics test.

Dr. Beth Williams of Wyoming State Diagnostic Laboratory will discuss chronic wasting disease (CWD) and interspecies transmission studies and the distribution of this disease in the United States.

Dr. Katherine O'Rourke, with USDA-ARS located at the Washington State University, will discuss the findings on the eyelid validation study for scrapie and the results of genetic testing for scrapie susceptibility in relation to the eyelid test.

Dr. David Taylor of the Institute of Animal Health in Edinburgh, the foremost authority on inactivation of

prions, will discuss inactivation of TSE agents in carcasses and new information on tallow and gelatin.

Dr. Linda Detwiler will give a brief presentation of the current national and regional BSE surveillance in the United States. What we are doing and what more can we do?

Following the presentations there will be a 20-minute panel question-and-answer session.

The program will start at 8:30 a.m. following a ½ hour USAHA business session and end at 11:30 a.m. The AAVLD graduate student awards and E. Pope Award presentation will follow the session. We hope to continue these sessions in future years.