



USAHA

Protecting Animal and Public Health Since 1897

United States Animal Health Association Newsletter - Vol. 28, No. 4, October 2001

Change of Guard at APHIS

Acord Named Acting Administrator

Bobby R. Acord has been named acting administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service after the resignation of Dr. Craig Reed. In this capacity, he provides executive leadership and policy guidance to the Agency's diverse programs.

Acord served as deputy administrator for APHIS' wildlife service's program from March 1990 until August 1999. WS protects agriculture, human health and safety, and natural resources from damage caused by wildlife.

In 1998, he received a Presidential Rank Award for his contributions to solving problems caused by wildlife. This prestigious award recognizes career

government executives who have demonstrated exceptional performance over an extended period of time. No more than 5 percent of federal executives receive the award in any given year.

Acord has also held several other WS management positions. These include: associate deputy administrator (1989), western region director (1988), and assistant deputy administrator (January 1986 to September 1987).

Acord joined the Department of Agriculture in 1966 as a meat grader with APHIS' sister agency, the Agricultural Marketing Service, where he held both field and headquarters positions. In 1973, he joined APHIS and soon held several important administrative positions, including an assignment with APHIS' then Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Acord is a native of Herdon, W.V., and a graduate of West Virginia University where he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1966. While attending college, he worked on sheep research projects involving forage digestibility. After receiving his degree, he joined USDA and began a leave of absence to serve 3 years in the U.S. Army Veterinary Service. He returned to USDA after completing his service.

He and his wife, Anna, have two children, a son and daughter.

Bobby Acord will serve as Acting Administrator of APHIS until a permanent administrator is named.

Letter From Reed

I am delighted to share with you a piece of good news for my family and me. Effective Sept. 1, I will be joining Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University as a visiting professor.

My new position gives me an extraordinary opportunity to work on the development of a Joint Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health that

“My tenure with APHIS has been enormously rewarding...”

-Craig Reed, DVM

integrates teaching, research, and extension programs among Virginia Tech's Colleges for Agriculture and Life Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Natural Resources, and Human Resources and Education. I will also be teaching at their veterinary school and advising graduate students interested in pursuing careers in food safety and agricultural policy.

My tenure with APHIS has been enormously rewarding, thanks to the many talented and dedicated people who work here, both on the front lines and behind the scenes. Together, we have accomplished remarkable things. I am exceptionally proud to have worked among you and look forward to continuing these relationships in my new capacity at Virginia Tech.

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News Briefs

- West Nile Virus Update**—USDA approved a conditional license for the first WNV vaccine for horses. The license was issued to Fort Dodge Laboratories on Aug. 2, 2001. Summary of Equine Cases of Clinical WNV infection as of Sept. 5, 2001 is as follows: Connecticut (1 county, 1 equine); Florida (16 counties, 54 equine); Georgia (3 counties, 5 equine); Kentucky (1 county, 1 equine); Louisiana (1 parish, 1 equine); New York (1 county, 2 equine); Pennsylvania (2 counties, 2 equine).
- New Scrapie** rule was effective Sept. 20, 2001.
- Pseudorabies Update**—Iowa has 13 herds quarantined, Nebraska has no known infection, and Minnesota has no quarantines.
- Brucellosis Update**—Kansas identified a positive beef herd and depopulated infected sites within 6 days. A total of 2,100 animals on 25 premises were tested. No additional infection was found. Oklahoma was officially declared free, with the final rule published in the **Federal Register** on Aug. 30, 2001.
- Viral Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease** has been diagnosed in Utah. Shipments of rabbits from the infected site went to Montana and Illinois. A shipment of rabbits traveling through Idaho was detained because the load contained rabbits from the Montana trace. All infected sites have been depopulated.
- Effective Sept. 1, 2001**, APHIS, Veterinary Services will NOT accept negative CEM culture results reported by Bose Laboratory of Hildesheim, Germany, to qualify adult horses for importation. Horses imported to the U.S. with CEM culture results from Bose laboratory will be refused entry.
- Now Texas law prohibits** feeding swine any wastefood that may contain meat or any type of meat scraps. Furthermore, effective as of Sept. 1, 2001, providing these products for feeding swine will be against the law.
- Texas reported** a beef cattle herd in south Texas infected with tuberculosis (TB). Texas livestock health officials are still seeking the source of infection. Surrounding herds have tested negative.

USAHA People

- Dr. Tony Frazier** has been named Alabama State Veterinarian.
- Dr. Bill Hartmann** has been appointed Minnesota State Veterinarian.
- Dr. Nancy Frank** is now acting as State Veterinarian for Michigan.
- A Letter to Members from **Dr. Terry Beals** is included on page 5.
- Congratulations to **Dr. C. Carter Black:**



Dr. C. Carter Black, III, was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association at the annual convention June 6-10, 2001 at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The award was presented by Dr. Doris Miller, President of the Association.

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CONTACT INFO

USAHA Newsletter is published by the United States Animal Health Association.

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Bob Hillman, DVM

It is hard to believe that summer is nearly gone, fall is upon us and the time for our annual meeting is rapidly approaching.

I hope that you have made plans to attend the annual meeting in Hershey. Committee Chairs are working to develop agendas for the meeting. Many important issues need to be deliberated and recommendations made for resolution or improvement. Some important issues are animal health emergency management policies and procedures for foot-and-mouth disease and other highly contagious diseases; farm-to-table food safety; emerging diseases such as viral hemorrhagic disease of rabbits and West Nile virus; animal identification; wildlife diseases; review of disease control programs; equine diseases; safeguarding animal health; Animal Health Protection Act and upgrading of laboratories at Ames and Plum Island. In addition to these, many other topics of importance will be discussed.

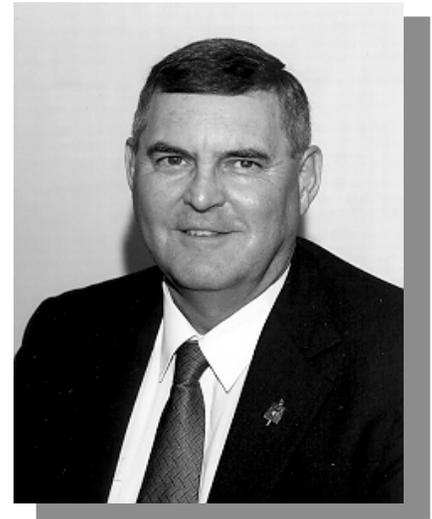
Dr. Maxwell Lea and Dr. Pat Blanchard are developing an outstanding agenda for the USAHA-AALVD joint general session on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE). This joint session will be Monday morning Nov. 5. A second general session on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 7, will primarily deal with foot-and-mouth disease and carcass disposal. Please review the agenda so you do not miss a committee meeting or other function in which you want to participate.

We are at a crossroad in animal health. Completion of our long-standing animal health programs like brucellosis, in both cattle and swine; tuberculosis and pseudorabies are within sight. Success in these programs has resulted in reductions in force and funding at both the federal and state levels. Many animal health challenges, some new and some that have

been around for a long time, still have not been addressed. Where we go from here is up to us. We must work collaboratively to chart the future course of animal health and disease control in the United States.

There may not be a topic for discussion more important than animal health emergency management. The outbreaks of FMD in the United Kingdom and other countries around the world are a wake-up call to all of us. We must ensure our animal health emergency response system is up-to-date and fully functional. While we have been able, so far, to prevent incursion of FMD into the United States, we have had other incursions of disease. West Nile virus, currently present in at least 18 states, continues to spread, and appears to be here to stay. Within the past few weeks viral hemorrhagic disease of rabbits was discovered in the West and Midwest. The first time this disease was found in the United States was last year. We either failed to eliminate it or it has been introduced again. Both were exotic diseases introduced into the United States. Our animal health emergency management system was not sufficient to prevent their introduction, and so far has not been sufficient to prevent their spread. We must evaluate these diseases and our response to them and use their lessons to revise and upgrade our safeguarding and response system.

For many years we have depended upon USDA to prevent introduction of a foreign animal disease into the United States. I believe that our experiences with these two diseases and our preparations for an outbreak of FMD clearly indicate our safeguarding and animal health emergency response system must be a full partnership among USDA, state animal health agencies, industries, state departments of agriculture, universities, and other concerned citizens, if it is to be



effective in either safeguarding or response. USDA does not have the fiscal or human resources, or the necessary authorities, to do the job alone. Neither do the states or industries. I believe there are distinctive roles USDA is best suited to perform. Likewise, there are roles the states, industries and universities are in the best position to perform. The national animal health emergency response program we have been working to develop and implement for the past several years takes these factors into consideration. We must move as rapidly as possible to implement this management partnership. To do anything less will result in continued frustration for many of us and will inevitably result in introduction and dissemination of other exotic diseases in the United States.

Keep in mind that one of the items of business at our annual meeting in Hershey will be to deliberate and act on the proposed new bylaws for the Association and on the proposed amendments to the new bylaws. This is a vital business item that will impact the way we conduct our Association's business in the future. Please review the proposed new bylaws and proposed amendments prior to the meeting so that we can make informed decisions relative to them.

Our meeting in Hershey will be a very important and busy meeting with these and many other issues to be discussed. If you have not already done so, make your reservations as soon as possible.

See you in Hershey.

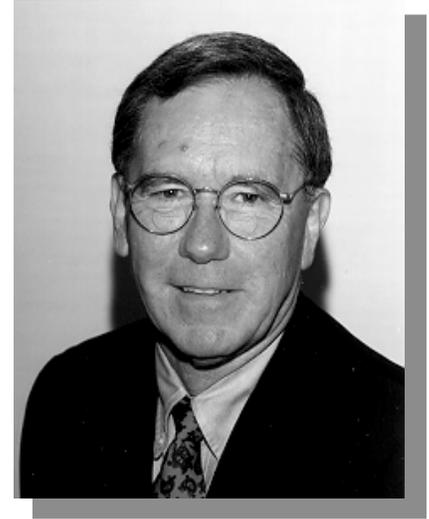
J. Lee Alley, DVM

The Constitution and Bylaws Review Task Force (CBRTF), established in 1999 by President McCapes, recommended repealing the current Association's constitution except for the mission statement. The task force drafted amended bylaws and recommended their approval.

The Executive Committee approved a resolution accepting the amended constitution and bylaws prepared by CBRTF. This resolution also accepted additional amendments to the amended constitution and bylaws until the end of the Executive Committee meeting on Oct. 26, 2000. Ten amendments were proposed to the amended bylaws recommended by CBRTF.

The amended bylaws developed by CBRTF is printed in the **Proceedings** of the 104th Annual Meeting, Oct. 20-27, 2000 in Birmingham, Ala. These bylaws, include the ten amendments accepted by the Executive Committee during the meeting. The amended bylaws, as printed in the proceedings, will be presented to the Executive Committee during the first meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2001.

If the Executive Committee approves the amended bylaws, they would then be presented to the general membership during the Business Meeting on Nov. 7, 2001. The general membership would be voting to approve or disapprove the amended bylaws approved by the Executive Committee. If the Executive



Committee fails to approve the amended bylaws, no action on the bylaws is needed by the general membership.

We will be mailing to each USAHA member a copy of the amended bylaws with the ten amendments and explanation of the purpose of each. This information will be sent to you prior to the Hershey meeting. We hope this information will help you understand the process for approval of the amended bylaws.

USAHA People (Cont'd)

A Letter to Members From Terry Beals, DVM

I have been retired for one year as of Aug. 31st and have thought many times how I did not get the opportunity to say a proper farewell and extend my sincere thanks to those who helped, supported and encouraged me during my career with USDA and later with the Texas Animal Health Commission. It was during USAHA meetings in committees, in the halls and in the breakfast and hospitality rooms that I learned how to handle most any matter, how to avoid "bumps in the road", and how to avoid mistakes and make sound decisions. The spirit of cooperation, sharing, supporting our colleagues and always keeping the producers interest uppermost in our minds laid the groundwork for the "successes," which were many. It was an overwhelming pleasure and honor for me to be able to call you friends, colleagues and co-workers

and to have been just a small part of all the good that came out of our efforts.

When President Hillman called my name to receive the award from the National Assembly for outstanding service to regulatory veterinary medicine, back in 1997, I was totally humbled and probably undeserving in view of all the other contributors that could have been chosen. In any case, I could not muster either words or courage to give a few remarks of appreciation for such an honor and to this day I have regretted missing that opportunity! So, to all the State Veterinarians who made up the National Assembly then and to all my colleagues, co-workers and friends, I was and am honored and will always remember that night and thanks for the recognition that I will always savor.

Again, when Dr. Craig Reed presented the APHIS Animal Health Award to me in San Diego in 1999 I was speechless and failed to take the initiative to express my

appreciation to all those in the room. It is with my deepest feeling of appreciation and thanks to all those who made such an award possible that I send these words. In neither case did I feel deserving, but being recognized by my peers, colleagues and co-workers is something that I look back on with great pride and pleasure.

Whether I enjoy retirement as much as my work and my co-workers and the producers we served is still not clear. However, I know that when I think back over the difficult years and times with brucellosis, tuberculosis, hog cholera and EIA and can now savor the great progress and success, of which I was only a very little part, I know it was a great time to have been a part of the programs to control and eradicate livestock disease. I pray that all of you will celebrate and savor the progress and successes that so many told us could never be achieved. Again, my heartfelt thanks, best wishes and highest regards.

USDA's Master Plan: USAHA has Made a Difference!

By Bob Frost

The ARS-APHIS Modernization Plan has been USAHA's number one priority since the passage of Resolution One at the 2000 annual meeting in Birmingham. This \$447 million Master Plan, if completely funded, 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 (NVSL). These facilities are located in Ames, Iowa.

USAHA is adamantly urging passage of the "Accelerated Implementation" budget version of the Master Plan, which calls for \$40 million in fiscal year 2002. The remaining funding would be spread over the next four years. The big funding year of \$275 million would be in 2004.

The good news is the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee added \$40 million to USDA's 2002 appropriations for the Master Plan. The USDA appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives contained the \$40 million added by the Appropriations Committee. The USDA

appropriations bill is still pending passage by the Senate. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the 2002 USDA bill that also includes the \$40 million for the Master Plan. There seems to be no specific Master Plan roadblocks for passage by the Senate. However, the climate in Congress is "renegotiation," especially on items in the agriculture funding bill. The word is: be vigilant and ready to urge the Senate to fund the Master Plan.

A problem of great concern to USAHA with the current funding process is the lack of guarantees for future Master Plan funds from Congress. This means USAHA, along with other national stakeholders, will have to keep working with Congress to appropriate the needed funds each year.

USAHA has made a significant difference in moving the Master Plan forward. Reports from various sources on "the Hill" verify the **Special Edition** newsletter (Vol. 28, No. 2; June, 2001) elevated the Plan in the eyes of Congress to having a national need. Congress and

many key staff people now understand the Master Plan has support from all 50 States and stakeholders nationwide.

Each USAHA and AAVLD member received a copy of the **Special Edition** in June. The newsletter was sent to President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. Copies were also mailed to each member of the 107th Congress and their key staff members. Hundreds of copies were supplied to stakeholders throughout the nation.

Discussion at the 105th Annual Meeting in Hershey will give the opportunity to gather ideas and explore avenues for immediate and future efforts to continue support of the Master Plan. Pressure must be kept on Congress to accelerate the funding of this project in order 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.

The **Special Edition** newsletter is posted on USAHA's website.

U.S. Delegation to OIE Meeting



Pictured Left to Right:

Conrad Euster, Lab Director at Texas A&M/AAVLD; **Michael David**, APHIS International Services; **Peter Fernandez**, APHIS International Services; **Mack Lea**, Louisiana State Veterinarian/USAHA President Elect; **Lyle Vogle**, AVMA; **Alphonso Torres**, APHIS Deputy Administrator; **Jere Dick**, APHIS Associate Director Eastern Region.

Southern District

By Lee Coffman, DVM

The 2001 annual meeting of the Southern Animal Health Association (SAHA) was a complete success. The meeting was held June 10-13, 2001 at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando, Fla. Participants enjoyed a diverse agenda incorporating topics such as aquaculture, food safety, pet industry, exotics and wildlife, invasive plant and animal species, foreign animal diseases, emergency management, animal movement programs, and best management practices for several industries.

On Sunday afternoon, June 10, participants and their families experienced the Florida Flare, which included up close tours of an aquaculture facility and cattle ranch before arriving at the Florida Cattlemen's Association headquarters in Kissimmee for dinner including steaks and gator tail.

On Monday afternoon, June 11, participants boarded the buses again for a behind-the-scenes tour of veterinary programs and laboratories at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom. Highlights included a tour through the elephant barn, surgery facilities, and food preparation and storage facilities.

Spouses and guests enjoyed tours and shopping in historical Old Town, Fla., as well as air boat rides and parasailing. For those who wanted to strike out on their own, there were several attractions on International Drive within walking distance or a short drive.

The business meeting was held Wednesday afternoon, June 13.

Dr. Jones Bryan, S.C., was elected SAHA President for 2002, and Dr. David Marshall was elected SAHA Vice President for 2002. Dr. Conley Byrd, A.R., was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer.

South Carolina will be hosting the 2002 SAHA annual meeting.

North Carolina will be hosting the 2003 SAHA annual meeting.

At the 2000 USAHA meeting in Birmingham, four possible locations were discussed for the 2004 USAHA meeting: Orlando, Fla.; North Carolina; Texas; and Birmingham. Birmingham and North Carolina have been eliminated from consideration. Texas has tentatively looked at Fort Worth, but nothing to date has been pursued.

Dr. Coffman reported that the USAHA meeting committee would be looking at seven sites in Orlando in late June, with considerations to include pending construction projects to be completed by 2004. Further discussion was postponed until recommendations from the committee become available.

Those present discussed the progress and status of the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA), H.R. 2002, recently introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. The SAHA's position on the current draft of the AHPA, as moved by Dr. Burke Healy and seconded by Dr. Rice Macfie, was unanimously approved as follows:

The Southern Animal Health Association cannot support H.R. 2002 until the following two issues are addressed:

- The "premise" language in Section 7(b) should be removed; and
- The accreditation part in Section 10 should include language requiring joint authority between state chief livestock health officials and USDA.

A resolution was passed regarding Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), in which the SAHA will encourage the expansion of the Florida TSA Task Force into a Southern Regional TSA Task Force by: forming a TSA working group within the SAHA to network with the Florida TSA Task Force; encouraging the Southern

Plant Board counterparts of SAHA members to become active participants of the Southern Regional TSA Task Force; and encouraging state cattle industry associations to become active participants of the Southern Regional TSA Task Force.

SAHA passed a resolution on Equine movements to:

- Begin collaboration among "state clusters" currently utilizing a passport system to move toward a SAHA regionally recognized passport acceptable to all member states;

- Name a working group to begin a framework to be utilized by states surrounding the SAHA region to expand further the concept;

- Forward a resolution from SAHA requesting that the USAHA Infectious Diseases of Horses Committee create a subcommittee broadening the concept of multi-state and regional animal movement "passports" toward a "national equine passport."

Kentucky State Veterinarian Dr. Don Notter provided an update regarding the Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome investigation and its devastating impact on the equine industry in Kentucky. Everyone present appreciated the information.

Welcome to Hershey!



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services

Dear USAHA/AAVLD members:

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is extremely pleased to host the United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians' 2001 joint annual meetings in Hershey the week of November 1 through 8, 2001.

As State Veterinarian, Executive Director of the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, and Director of the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services, it is my privilege to organize hosting opportunities.

I would like to extend greetings and add to the other invitations you are receiving for this important event. Pennsylvania is a wonderfully diverse state in the beautiful northeast. Agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry. Hershey is in the south central region of our Commonwealth within a half-hour drive to our capital, Harrisburg, a beautiful city set on the banks of the Susquehanna River. Hershey is also very close to the richest farming county in the United States, Lancaster County, home of the Amish; and it's only an hour's travel to historic Gettysburg, where you can walk on the battlegrounds of the Civil War. Another beautiful site to visit is the Longwood Gardens and Winterthur Museum, a planned trip for USAHA/AAVLD participants.

If anyone in the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services can assist you with your plans for travel to our great Commonwealth, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 717/772-2852. I encourage you to extend your convention time to take in the sights and breathtaking views of Pennsylvania. You also may want to plan to visit the three laboratories of our unique Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System.

Sincerely,

John I. Enck

John I. Enck, Jr., VMD

Director

Annual Meeting Update

The 105th Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pa. at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center is coming upon us fast. Room reservations made after Sept. 28 will be accepted on a space available basis only. The hotel phone number for reservations is 717/533-3311 or fax 717/534-8668.

A new Tentative Agenda is enclosed. Please be sure to go over the new agenda, because a few changes have been made since the last one.

Also, the cut off date for pre-registration was Sept. 28th.

When making flight reservations, you will fly into Harrisburg. You can ride the Hershey shuttle from 6a.m. to 11p.m. If you come in late call the hotel to confirm a later shuttle pick up. The hotel shuttle cost is \$12.00 one-way and \$19.00 round-trip. Taxi fares are \$15 to \$20.

Two tours are scheduled: Sunday, Nov. 4, the Gettysburg Tour, \$45.00 per person; and the second on Tuesday, Nov. 6, The Longwood Gardens & Winterthur Museum Tour, \$40.00 per person. Limited seats are available for these tours. If you are interested, please call AAA Travel at 800/253-6238 or 717/657-2178.

We will be able to accept Visa and Master Credit Card payment for Annual Meeting registration on site. There will be a pass through charge of \$2.00 for each credit card transaction.

We look forward to seeing you in Hershey, Nov. 1-8, 2001.

Joint TSE Symposium

By Maxwell Lea, Jr., DVM

The General Scientific Sessions of the 105th Annual USAHA meeting will feature a number of experts providing information on both TSE conditions and foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, containment and eradication.

Due to the broad interest and concern in these matters the first General Scientific Session on Monday, Nov. 5 will be a joint session for AAVLD and USAHA members. The scheduling of the session should be such that a maximum number of members of both organizations should be present to take advantage of the presentations.

Following is a list of subjects and presenters for the joint Scientific Session:

•**An Integrated Scrapie Control program:** Active surveillance using live animal testing and risk reduction using genetic selection—**Dr. K. O'Rourke**

•**B.S.E.:** Epidemiology of the disease and validity of diagnostic tests used—

Dr. Marcus G. Doherr

•**Chronic Wasting Disease:** Host Range and Distribution—**Dr. Beth Williams**

•**Physical and Chemical Inactivation of TSE Agents** in tissues and carcasses and new findings—**Dr. David Taylor.**

•**National and Regional B.S.E Surveillance in the U.S.** What we are doing and what more can we do?—**Dr. Linda Detwiler.**

Wednesday's General Scientific Session will feature a presentation by **Dr. David Taylor** concerning the disposal of TSE infected carcasses.

The second session will also include a presentation by **Brigadier Alexander Birtwistle** and **Lt. Colonel Paul Baker** on their experiences disposing of large

numbers of depopulated livestock in the United Kingdom's ongoing battle with foot-and-mouth disease. These two gentlemen were responsible for the logistics of equipment, personnel and locations for the disposal of tens of thousands of head of depopulated cattle, sheep and hogs when the military became involved in the FMD problem in the United Kingdom. Their experiences should be very interesting, enlightening and informative to everyone with an interest in food animal agriculture.

The members of the AAVLD and USAHA program committees are looking forward to the programs that have been developed. The membership feels the information provided is timely and will be valuable to all concerned.

You are invited and encouraged to attend all the General Scientific Sessions at the meeting in Hershey.