



See You in San Diego

The 113th USAHA and 52nd AAVLD Annual Meeting is coming up quickly, with an earlier date of October 8-14, 2009. Registration and Hotel information are available for your planning.

Featured at this year's USAHA/AAVLD Joint Plenary Session is Emerging Vector Borne Diseases: What's the Risk? The program will take a look at key issues related to vector borne diseases such as bluetongue. A group of international experts has been put together to provide the latest knowledge and experiences with these types of diseases.

Program co-chairs Richard Breitmeyer, USAHA President-elect and Gary Anderson, AAVLD President-elect have worked diligently to compile a program that address multiple facets of vector-borne diseases.

"Bluetongue virus is an emerging threat to the livestock industry, and a primary example of the potential impacts from vector-borne diseases," says Breitmeyer, California State Veterinarian. "As we look at recent trends in Europe it is important for the U.S. to consider current capabilities and future needs to effectively address surveillance, preparedness and response strategies if this virus or other emerging vector-borne diseases were to become prevalent here."

A vector-borne disease is commonly defined as one in which the infection is transmitted by an arthropod, such as a

tick, mosquito, or gnat. Many vector-borne diseases are zoonotic in nature, although Bluetongue virus in particular is not known to infect humans. Other important vector-borne diseases include African horse sickness, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, West Nile virus, and vesicular stomatitis.

"As we look at the body of knowledge on vector-borne diseases, there's an opportunity to bring that new information to the forefront of veterinary medicine as an area we need to be better prepared," adds Anderson, Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director. "The Joint Plenary Session will look at the various facets of vector-borne diseases, and draw on experiences both in the U.S. and internationally to give members of our organizations a chance to reflect and address the regulatory and diagnostic needs in this area."

The full agenda for the session is on page 4. The session will be held on October 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., during the Annual Meeting.

USAHA continues with its full schedule of Committee meetings. USAHA will be posting Committee Agendas at www.usaha.org as they become available. A complete schedule is available at the USAHA meetings page, just click on the "tentative agenda" link. More information on a few of the Committee agendas is on page seven of this newsletter.

AAVLD will offer a full range of scientific sessions, including epidemiology, pathology, microbiology and virology. AAVLD's plenary session will focus on emerging technologies. In addition, AAVLD's full committee schedule can be found on the tentative agenda. ■



USAHA President's Remarks

As I was returning on the plane from the VS 2015 meeting with our USDA colleagues last week, I reflected on what an eventful year it's been for me and for the USAHA. It was my third trip to DC since March (the other two meetings were the Government Relations Committee meeting in March and the animal ID meeting with Secretary Vilsack in April). I also was amazed at how fast this year has flown by. In less than six weeks, we'll be in San Diego for the annual meeting.

After a somewhat quiet early winter punctuated by monthly conference calls with the Executive Committee, I launched into my attendance at the regional USAHA meetings starting with the Western meeting in Albuquerque hosted by Dr. Dave Fly. After a minor delay due to a nor'easter here in Maine I did arrive in New Mexico (and I did not bring a necktie, as instructed by Dr. Fly). The primary message I took away from that meeting was the intense interest in tuberculosis in that region. It was during this meeting that the seeds of the Denver Tuberculosis meeting were planted in the minds of the Executive Committee and me.

The end of March found me in Maryland for the Northeast meeting hosted by Dr. Guy Hohenhaus and staff. Steve Crawford, his father and I won the golf tournament on Sunday (we were the only team entered but we were brilliant all the same). The Eastern Shore was a fine venue for this meeting and as always, discussions were lively and enlightening. Lexington in early May is Kentucky Derby time and Dr. Bob Stout and his staff provided a stimulating mix of business and pleasure culminating in a very exciting visit to Churchill Downs (I found out, not surprisingly, that I'm not a very good handicapper). Two weeks later, Dr. Tony Forshey hosted the North Central meet-

ing in Ohio and graciously opened his home for a barbecue. The Select Sires tour was another highlight of this meeting for me as I hadn't visited a bull stud since veterinary school.

At our annual meeting in Greensboro last year, the Board of Directors passed our Strategic Operational Plan. As I told you at that time, my goal was to use this plan as a framework for moving the association in the direction that members want it to move. All progress is incremental and I think we've achieved some significant advancement on some of those goals this year. Most notably, we conducted our first topic-specific symposium focused on tuberculosis, which by all measures and the feedback we've received, seems to have been an unqualified success. This meeting also helped further another objective of the long range plan i.e. position the USAHA as more of a year-round presence.

Another objective on which I had hoped to make progress was in improving committee effectiveness. I think we also have advanced that goal this year by continuing the committee chair conference calls, and work on revising the committee chair manual and striving to actively engage some of our key committees in the business of the association. With our colleagues at AAVLD, through our monthly conference calls, we continue to also explore the possibility of joint staffing with that organization. The Executive Committee has revised our policy on advocacy this year. We've also been actively engaged in discussions with some of our key federal partners on how to maintain the USAHA's key role as a respected authority in animal health, food security, food safety and public health. For substantial evidence of the continued relevance and influence of this association, one needs

Donald Hoenig



look no further than the reaction to and attendance at the TB Symposium in Denver in July. USAHA does matter, and to paraphrase the words of the old E.F. Hutton commercial, when USAHA speaks, people listen.

There is no finer group of people than those I have worked with on the Executive Committee this year. I thank them all for their unwavering support, hard work and dedication to this association and its ideals. Lastly, a big debt of gratitude to Ben Richey our outstanding young executive director who continues to impress us all with his intelligence, poise and work ethic and to Kelly Janicek for all her hard work on behalf of the organization. □

2008-2009 USAHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Donald Hoenig, President
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Richard Breitmeyer, President-Elect
California Dept. of Food and Agriculture

Steven Halstead, 1st Vice President
Michigan Dept. of Agriculture

David Marshall, 2nd Vice President
North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture

David Meeker, 3rd Vice President
National Renderers Association

William Hartmann, Treasurer
Minnesota Board of Animal Health

James Leafstedt, Immediate Past President
National Pork Board

A Word from AAVLD

I want to invite each of you to attend the annual USAHA/AAVLD meeting in San Diego. Gary, Rich and the program committees have selected a multitude of high quality abstracts and invited interesting plenary speakers. The AAVLD plenary session on emerging technologies is exciting and will introduce new technologies not likely utilized in many AAVLD laboratories. Some of these are potentially useful as field applications that will interest the USAHA. Perhaps exposure will stimulate research inquiry into broader veterinary application.

The joint AAVLD/USAHA session on vector born diseases will review topics we haven't covered in a long time. The AAVLD subcommittee on parasitology is working on review of tritrichomonas sampling and diagnostics that is certain to lead to lively discussion at that committee meeting. Hopefully, this review will result in an understanding that allows us to harmonize approaches or establish recognized

For comments on this newsletter,
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equivalencies for sampling and testing protocols that allow safe efficient cattle movement. The laboratory director nomination process for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) coordinating council is progressing and the list of nominees submitted by your state delegates is being vetted by the joint USAHA/AAVLD NAHLN subcommittee. A final list will be submitted after executive board review in August. The USDA has well defined guidelines to assure broad representation and we are selecting from a broad pool of willing volunteers. It is hoped that a functioning council will be in place by October.

The AAVLD executive committee has supported in concept sponsorship of the AAVMC initiated North American Veterinary Education Consortium (NAVMEC). This is an important initiative we all should be monitoring and assuring our voice is heard.

Thanks to all the various committee chairs and committee members that are active behind the scenes preparing for another successful meeting; and see you in San Diego! ☐

David Steffen



Look for detailed information on AAVLD's program, including committees, scientific sessions and the AAVLD Plenary session at www.aavld.org.



From the Executive Director

USAHA continues its strong animal health presence, evident by the ongoing committee activity throughout the year. Part of the 2008 long-range plan was to continue on the charge set forth by the 1997 strategic plan to become a more active, year-round association. This summer's "The Future of the National Tuberculosis Program" symposium is an excellent example of what USAHA can accomplish. I am pleased to report the meeting was successful, and we are in the process of finalizing the report to

Ben Richey

be made available for all those interested in the discussion from the meeting.

Administratively, USAHA has had another successful financial year. A highlight includes our move into the Missouri Western Science and Technology Incubator as an anchor tenant. The facility provides USAHA with expanded space and access to many small business benefits. I would encourage anyone passing through St. Joseph to stop in and say hello.

USAHA has also embarked on a new database system to expand our

tracking and reporting capabilities. You may have noticed a new look to the meeting registrations online as part of that. I'll refer you to the article on your new accounts for more information on page 8.

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego. And as always, Kelly and I are here to assist you for any membership or association-related needs that you may have, so please don't hesitate to ask. ☐

2009 Joint Plenary Session Agenda

EMERGING VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES: WHAT IS THE RISK?

Monday, October 12, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Atlas Ballroom

- 8:00 – 8:15 Introduction
N. James MacLachlan, University of California-Davis
- 8:15 – 9:00 Climate change and emerging diseases: a search for patterns and predictions in a changing world
E. Paul Gibbs, University of Florida
- 9:00 – 9:45 Impact of bluetongue in Europe – a recent example of an emerging disease
Vincenzo Caporale, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo, Italy
- 9:45 – 10:00 Emergence of bluetongue and related Orbiviruses in the United States
David Stallknecht, University of Georgia
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:15 Unique challenges to North America posed by emerging diseases
Terry McElwain, Washington State University
- 11:15 – 11:45 USDA perspective
John Clifford, Veterinary Services, USDA-APHIS
- 11:45 – Noon Summation
The panel and audience

Other Events at San Diego

AAVLD President's Reception and Auction - Friday, Oct. 9, 6 p.m.

AAVLD Plenary Session - Saturday, Oct. 10, 8 a.m.

USAHA All-Districts Breakfast - Sunday, Oct. 11, 7:30 a.m.

USAHA/AAVLD President's Reception and Dinner - Sunday, Oct. 11, 5:30 p.m.

USAHA Membership Meetings - Monday, Oct. 12, 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2:00 p.m.

Register today for the 2009 Annual Meeting

Attendees can register online at www.usaha.org!

Member registration fees for USAHA, AAVLD or both are \$250.00; Non-member fees are \$425.00.

Pre registration ends September 25! Fees will increase after this date.

Renew your USAHA or AAVLD Dues with your registration, simply check the appropriate boxes for your membership renewal of 2010 dues.

Not a member of USAHA or AAVLD? If you join either or both organizations with your registration, you'll receive the member discount for the 2009 meeting for your 2010 Annual Dues.

Host Hotel

Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108
www.towncountry.com

USAHA/AAVLD has reserved a block of rooms at 137.00/night plus tax, single/double occupancy. By phone: 800-772-8527 and mention "USAHA-AAVLD 2009" for the group rate.

Or, make reservations online at https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=148907.

TB: Flexibility, Science and Collaboration

USAHA hosts symposium to address future of TB program

The United States Animal Health Association hosted a topic-specific symposium on a key disease issue now impacting beef and dairy producers as well as wildlife. The issue: bovine tuberculosis (TB). Five states are currently dealing with the impacts of TB, each in different stages, but none-the-less a key issue for beef and dairy producers in those states. Moreover, it was a forum for animal health leaders and experts to gather to discuss the direction of TB's federal program, and provide input in the process of evolving the program to better meet the needs of today's beef and dairy production.

"A goal recognized in the 2008 long range plan was to identify ways for the USAHA to become more of a year-round association and a topic-specific symposium seemed one way to further this goal", said Dr. Don Hoenig, USAHA President. "The Executive Committee identified bovine TB as a key issue for a topic-specific symposium with the goal of gathering broad stakeholder feedback and generating momentum for the program's proposed restructuring."

USAHA hosted an opening general session that included updates from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services' (VS) listening sessions that began in December 2008. The listening sessions provided VS with the opportunity to gather the body of thought regarding TB around the country. USDA then held internal listening sessions among its staff, and has compiled a current thinking document for the TB program. Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator for Veterinary Services, highlighted that the program needs to be centered around "flexibility, science and collaboration." The new thinking is expected to be made

available through a Federal Register notice this fall, with the opportunity for comment by stakeholders around the country.

The background on the listening sessions set the stage for topic-specific, interactive breakout sessions to dive into the heart of current challenges and lay the groundwork for what program changes are necessary and feasible among all stakeholders involved.

Six key topics were identified by the planning committee for focused breakout sessions:

1. Importation of Infected Cattle
2. Wildlife-Associated Disease Transmission
3. Diagnostic Testing Needs and Limitations
4. Surveillance, Traceability and Investigation Deficiencies
5. Modernizing Regulations and
6. Disease Control Approach.

Each session included a list of discussion questions and proposed solutions for deliberation among the attendees.

"While consensus isn't always found, our intention was to pull together the body of knowledge and thought on the TB program, and package that into a menu of options for consideration as the future program evolves," said Dr. Rich Breitmeyer, who chaired the efforts of the planning committee. "USAHA will produce a report that summarizes the proceedings of this meeting, with the purpose of it being utilized as a



Dr. Richard Breitmeyer

collaborative document on the direction of the TB program."

Nearly 150 individuals participated in the event, and divided among the different topics in two concurrent sessions.

Groups represented include state animal health officials, beef and dairy producers and organiza-

tion representatives, livestock markets, veterinarians, diagnostic companies, researchers and academia. Federal officials were also present, acting as subject matter experts on technical program aspects.

USAHA is in the final stages of the report, with it expected to be available in early September. Watch for announcements regarding availability, or check www.usaha.org for its posting. Related information can be found by clicking on the "Future of the National Tuberculosis Program" link under News and Events.

"The participants in the symposium really helped to shape what we think was a successful meeting," adds Hoenig. "USAHA has long had the ability to pull the right people together in a timely manner to seek solutions for animal health issues. ■"



Dr. Chuck Massengill (r) shares comments with the group.

Report on the 77th Annual Meeting of the OIE

By Richard Breitmeyer, *President-Elect*

As the President-Elect of USAHA, it was my honor to accompany the U.S. delegation and attend the 77th General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), held May 24 to 29, 2009, in Paris, France. The meeting was attended by 159 delegates of the 174 Member countries and Territories, as well as observers from more than 30 regional and international organizations. The OIE has been recognized by the World Trade Organization as the standard setting body for animal health. As such, the OIE develops and establishes the health standards for the safe trade of animals and animal products and makes recommendations for the overall well-being of animals.

The members of the U.S. delegation were:

- Dr. John Clifford, OIE Delegate and Deputy Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)
- Dr. Michael David, Director, National Center for Import and Export, APHIS, VS
- Dr. Dan Sheesley, Deputy Administrator, APHIS, International Services (IS)
- Dr. Peter Fernández, Minister-Counselor, Brussels, APHIS, IS
- Dr. Jill Rolland, Aquaculture Specialist, APHIS, VS

Additionally, the following association representatives accompanied the U.S. delegation:

- Dr. Ron DeHaven, Executive Vice-President, American Veterinary Medical Association
- Dr. Paul Sundberg, Animal Agriculture Coalition
- Dr. Gary Anderson, President-Elect, American Association of Veterinary

Laboratory Diagnosticians

- Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, President-Elect, United States Animal Health Association

Prior to attending our first session, Dr. Michael David provided an excellent orientation for those of us new to the OIE meeting process. The OIE was first established in 1924 by 28 countries with the United States joining in 1976. Core functions of the OIE include collection and dissemination of information on disease event, research coordination, harmonization of animal health standards for trade and guidance for disease control and eradication. In addition, new mandates include development of animal welfare guidelines and assisting member countries to improve their veterinary services.



One of the primary activities of OIE is development and revision of the terrestrial and aquatic animal health codes. These standards facilitate trade in animals and animal products and assist countries to prevent disease introduction. U.S. participation in this process occurs through the Code Commissions, subject matter working groups, Collaborating Centers and Reference Laboratories and industry/association member visits to OIE meetings. USAHA is working to enhance member participation into this process by engaging key Committees to be available to review and comment when OIE codes are being revised.

During the course of the meeting, I was especially impressed by the con-

sistent efforts of the leadership of OIE and by our own U.S. delegation to ensure that the best available science was consistently used to develop policy and recommendations. Dr. Barry O'Neil, President of the International Committee, reiterated that the OIE, as the standard setting body for animal health, bases the development of standards on the best and most currently available science. The OIE will not develop or change any existing standards based on political science. For the majority of the issues reviewed, there was general consensus from the membership to accept the OIE recommendations based on the best available science. However, during adoption of the revisions to the chapter on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), 33 member countries (including Mexico, Russia and many from the Middle East, Central America and South America) voted against removing the 30-month age limit restriction so that deboned skeletal muscle can be traded freely from any BSE risk country. Despite these objections, 80 countries including the U.S., voted to adopt the changes.

One of the "special topics" presented at this year's meeting was a report on an OIE survey – Impact of climate change and environmental changes on emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and production. This survey of 126 member countries found that most animal health officials are concerned by the impact of climate change and environmental change on emerging and re-emerging animal diseases – including many vector-borne diseases. This very timely topic will be featured at this year's USAHA Plenary Joint Scientific Session, October 12 in San Diego.

I want to give special thanks to Dr.

[Continued on page 7](#)

OIE continued...

John Clifford, Dr. Michael David and the entire USDA delegation for their generous hospitality and guidance during the course of the meeting. We are fortunate to have them and the rest of the USDA delegation working on behalf of our many animal health issues, and USAHA looks forward to assisting the process in every way possible.

Final reports of the general sessions of the OIE International Committee may be found at:

http://www.oie.int/Eng/OIE/actes/en_rfinal.htm. □



In Memoriam

Below is a list of USAHA members that have passed on in the last year. Let us remember them for their service to the animal health community, and their individual contributions as professionals and individuals.

Dr. Joseph Templeton, Texas

Dr. Calvin W.S. Lum, Hawaii

Dr. John F. Hudelson, Colorado

Mr. Thomas R. Mickle, Georgia

USAHA Committee Meetings...

The USAHA **Committee on Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Workforce Development** will focus a large part of its program this year on the issues surrounding veterinary shortages in the United States. The program will likely include a panel of experts involved in congressional testimony on the situation, and a look at H.R. 2999, the Veterinary and Public Health Workforce and Education Act. Watch USAHA Committee News Flashes for detailed information, or go to the CDLVWD page under "Committees" at www.usaha.org. The Committee will convene at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 12.

Committees on Foreign and Emerging Diseases, Transmissible Diseases of Swine will both host presentations that address H1N1.

The Comm. on Transmissible Diseases of Swine will take a look at the experiences and lessons learned from the industry response, a summary of current research on the H1N1 strain, and current surveillance on swine influenza in the U.S. This committee meets on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 12:30 p.m.

The Comm. on Foreign and Emerging Diseases will focus on novel influenza viruses, including H1N1 and highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses. This portion of the program includes a Time-Specific Paper on the Canadian swine herd experience with influenza A virus, as well as a look at Australian, African and United States' perspectives on the virus and ongoing research. This section of the program begins at 10 a.m. on Oct. 13, as the Committee meets from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The **Committee on International Standards** will feature key international representatives, including Dr. Juan Lubroth, Infectious Disease Group, Animal Health Service of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Dr. Vincenzo Caporale, director of Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' in Abruzzo, Italy. The meeting is Monday, Oct. 12 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The **Committee on Parasitic Diseases** will focus on tick concerns, including exotics found in Florida, tropical bont tick, fever tick in Texas. The committee will also hear a presentation on the latest screwworm updates on eradication in the Americas. The Committee meets on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 8 a.m.

The **Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids** will focus on key diseases such as bovine viral diarrhea, fever ticks, and a case report on modified live virus IBR vaccine-induced abortions. The Committee will also address the top issues affecting the alpaca industry as well as bison in the U.S. The meeting is Sunday, Oct. 11 at 12:30 p.m.

The **Committee on Food and Feed Safety** will focus its program this year on "Animal Production Food Safety." See the enclosed agenda for details.

The **Committee on Animal Emergency Management** will feature its day-long program on the latest information regarding disease response, including recent experience, emerging technologies and updates on federal and state preparedness and planning. They will also feature a joint session with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The **Committee on Wildlife Diseases** will address three key disease areas, including Bighorn sheep, cervids and bison, and wild birds and bats. The Committee meets on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 8 a.m.

Details of these and other Committee programs will be posted to www.usaha.org as they become available. Check back frequently to get the latest on the annual meeting program. □



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Manage your USAHA membership online

For those of you that have registered online, or are planning to, you will notice a change to the online registration process. This is a new feature of the recently implemented USAHA database, allowing integrated processing and increased security for our online transactions.

The new system uses your email address and a password-protect to give you an individual account within the USAHA system. Once your account is created and your password confirmed, you'll have access to your membership history, committee memberships and other purchases you have made through the online system.

The online individual membership directory is also available from your membership account page, which includes contact information for other

members of USAHA.

"We implemented the new database as a means to increase our capabilities as an organization," says executive director Ben Richey. "We have been able to find some cost savings with the database and streamline some of our administrative duties. It is our hope that this translates to better member services over the long run."

While the new system can provide a snapshot of an individual's membership, www.usaha.org will remain intact in its current form for the near future, the integration may lead to new web-based capabilities. Above all, members can still stay in touch with USAHA through a quick email or simple phone call. ■