



USAHA News Release

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

PO Box 8805, St. Joseph, MO 64508

816-671-1144

www.usaha.org

USAHA Elects 2008-2009 Officers

November 14, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ben Richey, 816-671-1144, brichey@usaha.org

St. Joseph, Mo. - Dr. Donald E. Hoenig, Maine State Veterinarian, has been elected to serve as the President of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) for 2008-2009. Hoenig was welcomed to his position at the 112th Annual Meeting of USAHA in October.

The elections included:

- President-Elect: Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- First Vice-President: Dr. Steven Halstead, Michigan Department of Agriculture
- Second Vice-President: Dr. David Marshall, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Third Vice-President: Dr. David Meeker, National Renderers Association
- Treasurer: Dr. William Hartmann, Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Jim Leafstedt, a retired pork producer from South Dakota, was recognized for his service to USAHA for 2007-2008 as president and serving on the executive committee since 2003, and will continue serving as Immediate Past President for USAHA.

Hoenig is the director of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health and Industry, a position held since December 2007. Additionally he has been the chief veterinarian for Maine since 1995, joining the department's staff in 1986. He has been employed with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, and has been a private practitioner in both Maine and Massachusetts.

Hoenig has served on the Association's executive committee since 2004, representing the organization in a number of capacities. As President, Hoenig is responsible for leadership of the executive committee and the oversight of USAHA operations.

"Hoenig is well suited to serve as President of USAHA," says Jim Leafstedt, immediate past president of USAHA. "His leadership qualities will be invaluable for the current challenges facing animal health and keep the organization and its membership engaged with key issues."

Meeker is the newest addition to the USAHA executive committee, who serves as senior vice president of scientific services for the National Renderers Association. Meeker, Alexandria, Va., has served with the National Renderers Association since 2006, where

he previously served as president of the Animal Protein Producers Industry (APPI) prior to its merger with NRA in 2006. Dr. Meeker has also served in scientific and management positions at the National Turkey Federation and National Pork Producers Council, was director of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources for the National Research Council at the National Academy of Sciences, and was an associate professor at The Ohio State University. He is currently a member of the scientific advisory panel to the World Renderers Organization (WRO), a member of the USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Disease, and a member of the advisory committee for the Beef industry Food Safety Council of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Meeker is a native of Iowa.

USAHA will host the 113th Annual Meeting to be held in San Diego, Calif., October 7-14th, 2009.

###

USAHA, this nation's animal health forum since 1897, is a science-based, dues-supported, voluntary organization whose membership includes state, federal and international animal and public health agencies, allied industry and professional organizations, as well as individual members representing academia, animal owners and animal health professionals. USAHA primarily serves as a forum for communication and coordination among animal health constituents on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health. USAHA operates with 32 species- and subject-oriented committees, and hosts an annual meeting each year with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.