

# Make Plans for the 2011 USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting

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For Immediate Release

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St. Joseph, Mo. – The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) invites all animal health stakeholders to attend its 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Buffalo, New York, September 29 to October 5, 2011. USAHA meets jointly with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) each year, making it the premier forum for animal health, disease regulation policy and veterinary laboratory infrastructure discussion in the United States.

“USAHA is at the forefront of a number of livestock, poultry and wildlife disease issues,” says USAHA President Steve Halstead who is the Michigan State Veterinarian. “At a time when animal health officials are dealing with dwindling resources and there is increased attention on zoonotic diseases and safe food supply, the work of USAHA continues to become more critical.”

USAHA and AAVLD will feature a joint plenary session entitled “Evolving Food Systems for Global Food Security: Can Animal Production and Veterinary Infrastructure Keep Up?” The session will focus on the critical roles that state and federal animal health officials, private practitioners, laboratory and university scientists, and new technology play in food animal production and securing the availability of food for an expanding domestic and world population.

“We often hear a broad range of conversations about how animal protein will increase in demand and contribute to feeding a growing global population,” says Dr. David Marshall, USAHA program chair and North Carolina State Veterinarian. “A very important component of this is the regulatory, surveillance and diagnostic infrastructure – and it is necessary to address the changing food production landscape to ensure that infrastructure is positioned to effectively protect and serve the needs of the U.S., both domestically and internationally.”

The session will be held on October 3 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting also features a number of other high-interest topics in animal health. AAVLD will host a plenary session focusing specifically on tuberculosis, scheduled for Saturday morning, October 1 at 8:00 a.m. It is entitled “Bovine Tuberculosis: Here Today, Here Tomorrow?”

“The U.S. has made great strides in addressing tuberculosis, however we continue to see challenges and evolving science with the disease,” says Dr. Tim Baszler, AAVLD program chair and director of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Washington State University. “We felt it very timely to focus on some of the latest information around the world and new technologies that can assist us in addressing those challenges.”

USAHA anticipates excellent programs from each of its 30 committees that hold sessions during the meeting, ranging from key disease and species specific based committees to broad impact issue-based committees such as Food and Feed Safety, and Foreign and Emerging Diseases. USAHA will also feature a special session on rabies on Wednesday, October 5.

“There is no shortage of information, topics and productive discussion at the USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting,” says Halstead. “The scientific information, Resolutions and networking opportunities at this meeting are the culmination of the work our members do year-round.”

Learn more about USAHA and its Annual Meeting at [www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org). Additional information about AAVLD can be found at [www.aavld.org](http://www.aavld.org).

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*USAHA, this nation's animal health forum for over a century, 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.*

*The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) is a not-for-profit professional organization which seeks to:*

- *Disseminate information relating to the diagnosis of animal diseases*
- *Coordinate diagnostic activities of regulatory, research and service laboratories*
- *Establish uniform diagnostic techniques*
- *Improve existing diagnostic techniques*
- *Develop new diagnostic techniques*
- *Establish accepted guidelines for the improvement of diagnostic laboratory organizations relative to personnel qualifications and facilities*

*Act as a consultant to the United States Animal Health Association on uniform diagnostic criteria involved in regulatory animal disease programs.*

**Note to Editors & Journalists:** USAHA is pleased to offer complimentary registration to its Annual Meeting for credentialed members of the media. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ben Richey at [brichey@usaha.org](mailto:brichey@usaha.org) or 816.671.1144.