



# USAHA News Release

United States Animal Health Association

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*For immediate release:*

## SOUTH DAKOTA PORK PRODUCER TO HEAD USAHA

Reno, Nev., Oct. 24, 2007 - James Leafstedt, a pork producer from Alcester, S.D., was elected president of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its 111th meeting here this week. USAHA is an organization of state and federal animal health officials, practicing veterinarians, livestock producers, research scientists and others concerned with animal health.

Nearly 1,400 people attended this year's week-long conference, held in conjunction with the 50th annual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), to discuss issues related to the health of farm livestock, wildlife, poultry and fish.

The featured topic at this year's joint scientific session was "Examining the Roles of USAHA and AAVLD Concerning Major Food Animal Diseases." Presentations were made on *Salmonella* in poultry, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in fish, scrapie in sheep, bovine viral diarrhea (BVD), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), equine infectious anemia (EIA) and Johne's disease.

President Leafstedt indicated he has three goals for the organization under his leadership, including involving producers and membership services of the association.

"We will need to keep our focus on enhancing the success of the producers out there," Leafstedt said. "Additionally, USAHA is in a position to build on its transition with new staff to enhance our ability to better serve the membership."

Leafstedt's third focus relates to USAHA's role in relevant issues, and how the organization relates to both state and federal agencies, through resolutions and government relations.

Dr. Lee Myers, Georgia State Veterinarian and the first female president of USAHA, today relinquished her presidential duties to Leafstedt, but will remain an active part of the USAHA Executive Committee in her new role as immediate past president.

President-elect of USAHA is Dr. Don Hoenig, Maine State Veterinarian. Other officers are Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California, first vice-president; Dr. Steven Halstead, Michigan State Veterinarian, second vice-president; Dr. David T. Marshall, North Carolina State Veterinarian, third vice-president; and Dr. William L. Hartmann, Minnesota State Veterinarian, treasurer. Dr. J Lee Alley, long-time secretary of USAHA, will retire from that position at the end of the year.

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Regional delegates are Dr. John Enck, Jr., of Pennsylvania and Dr. Ernie Zirkle of New Jersey for the Northeast; Velmar Green of Michigan and Jay Hawley of Indiana for the North Central; Gene Lollis of Florida and Greg Rosales of Alabama for the South; and Bill Sauble of New Mexico and H.M. Richards III of Hawaii for the West.

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