



# USAHA

Protecting Animal and Public Health Since 1897

United States Animal Health Association Newsletter - Vol. 29, No. 2, July 2002

## President Bush Proposes Cabinet Level For Homeland Security USAHA Seeks Opportunity To Provide Input

By USAHA Executive Committee

President Bush, in an effort to expedite the nation's rapid transition to a wartime footing to combat terrorism, has proposed a new cabinet position for the Office of Homeland Security. Under this proposal the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Plum Island Animal Disease Center will move from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the newly proposed department.

The creation of this cabinet-level agency has public and bipartisan support in Congress. Bills to accomplish this have been introduced in both the House and Senate. Quick action is expected on the President Bush's proposal.

The President's proposal, outlined in a televised speech June 6, reportedly would transfer some 169,000 federal employees with a budget of \$37.4 billion from eight existing departments to the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), thus creating one of the largest departments in the federal government. A large number of congressional committees and subcommittees reportedly have oversight duties concerning homeland security.

The proposal has raised many questions that, hopefully, will be answered in the near future. For example, USDA currently manages several agencies critically important to the effective delivery of animal health programs to the nation's vast animal populations (see the chart that follows, originally published in the May 2001

newsletter special edition). A few of these are the Agriculture Research Service (ARS), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and APHIS.

*Continued on page 14*

### *Sec. Veneman's Statement on New Agency*

The decision by President Bush to create the Department of Homeland Security is a bold and visionary move that will better coordinate and protect our country against potential threats. The security and protection of our nation is of the highest priority and I fully support the President's decision.

The President has been steadfast in his actions and leadership since the tragic events of Sept. 11th and this proposal will continue to bolster America's homeland security coordination, planning, response and management.

It is critical that we continue to work together as government agencies to protect America from terrorists. In particular, we must protect our food and agriculture supply against any threat that could harm consumers or our farm sector.

While we have a strong system of protections at our borders and ports of entry that helps prevent the entry of pests and diseases entering our country, in this new age of threats, it is critical that we enhance the protection of America's food and agriculture supply.

I look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with Governor Ridge and the Congress on how the proposed Department of Homeland Security can best protect American agriculture, particularly as it relates to the further strengthening of programs at our borders and ports of entry that are so vital to our food and farm sector. (June 6, 2002)

## News Briefs

- Texas has lost its “Free” status for **cattle tuberculosis** (TB). The downgrade means the 150,000-plus breeding cattle hauled out of Texas each year must have a negative tuberculosis test prior to being moved. Two cattle herds in the state tested positive for TB in 2001.
- A dairy herd in Tulare County, California tested positive for **tuberculosis** in June. Traces of all potentially exposed animals are underway. The State Veterinarian has called for a negative test of all dairy breeding animals older than six months within 30 days prior to leaving the state.
- The **U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed to amend** its regulations to give the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service authority to pay 100 percent of the costs for purchase, destruction and disposition of animals should they become affected with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), as well as for materials contaminated with FMD and cleaning and disinfection of affected premises.
- **Brucellosis** has been confirmed in a cattle herd in Fremont County, Idaho. The herd is located within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Area, where brucellosis is known to exist in wild elk and bison. The initial investigation began when the cattle herd was tested on Apr. 15, after being exposed to a brucellosis-affected elk herd during the winter of 2001-02. (See related story in this issue.)
- More than 200 state and federal officials from throughout the country have been assisting in the **low-pathogen avian influenza** eradication effort in Virginia. Nearly 200 farms have been affected by the disease.
- Landmark legislation known as the **Animal Health Protection Act** was rolled into this year’s Farm Bill. Thanks to **Dr. Bob Hillman** of Idaho, who has spent much time and effort championing this cause.

## USAHA People

- **Dr. Peter J. Fernandez** has been named associate administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Fernandez is a native of Long Island, N.Y., and graduated from the Veterinary School of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain in 1986. Fernandez resides in Bethesda, Md., with his wife, Roberta, and his daughter, Belen.
- **Ralph H. Iwamoto** has been named deputy administrator of the international services program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Iwamoto is a native of Hawaii. He was born on the Island of Molokai and graduated from the University of Hawaii in Manoa with a degree in general agriculture.
- **Chester A. Gipson, DVM**, has been named deputy administrator of the animal care program in the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. He will be responsible for administration of the Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act.

## CORRECTION!

OOPS! We incorrectly reported in the January 2002 edition of this newsletter that the H7N2 subtype avian influenza virus was isolated in a chicken flock in **Connecticut**. While antibodies were detected, the virus was not isolated. Our apologies for the error.

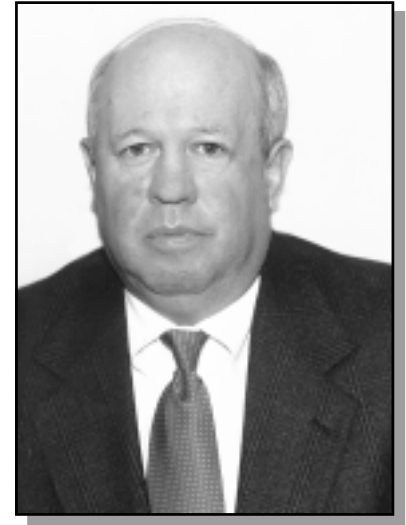
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## Maxwell Lea, DVM



USAHA is alive, doing well, and very active. The Government Relations Committee met in Washington, D.C. in February with the administrators of APHIS, ARS and other USDA agencies. Bob Frost developed and implemented this very successful meeting.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to attend the four regional USAHA meetings this spring. All the regions have had good meetings. The programs were very well put together and very timely for the issues presently confronting all of us involved in animal agriculture and animal health—chronic wasting disease, avian influenza, bioterrorism, and implementation of the Safeguarding Review and the Master Plan, to name a few. Unfortunately attendance was unavoidably down due to temporary assignments in Virginia by many USDA personnel. I want to express my sincere thanks to Rick Willer, Jones Bryan, Roger Olson and John Schiltz for inviting and including me

in their meetings and for the gracious hospitality they extended to everyone.

The increased incidence of low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in the live-bird markets in the Northeast, followed by the outbreak of LPAI and subsequent control measures taking place in Virginia, has prompted USAHA to form an Avian Influenza Working Group. Members will address the situation, discuss the various issues involved and develop suggestions to prevent an occurrence of high-path AI in the United States. Drs. Bob Eckrode and Wes Towers are chairing the group that includes regulatory officials, industry personnel, teachers and researchers from all regions of the country. The group met May 29 and 30 in San Antonio, Texas just prior to the beginning of the NPIP meeting. Many thanks to everyone who participated in this effort and gave of his/her time and expertise to help find a solution to the problem.

Committee assignments have been completed; two or three new

committee chairs are in place. The number of standing committees has been reduced by two. All chairs have received a list of committee members. I urge the chairs to begin developing agendas and sending out inquiries and requests for papers to be presented at committee meetings and the general sessions this fall.

APHIS administrators asked USAHA to help facilitate a conference telephone call with all state veterinarians and federal Area Veterinarians-In-Charge to receive comments on the proposed federal rule for payment of indemnity in the event of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Anyone who wishes to comment is encouraged to do so. The FMD proposal can be found on the APHIS web page at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Click on "Regulations" and scroll to Docket number 01-069-1 for a copy of the proposed rule and information concerning committees.

The Executive Committee (EC) continues to be busy in its efforts to stay abreast of animal health issues as they occur. The EC meets by conference call the first Wednesday of each month. If you are concerned about any issues please contact the office in Richmond ask that items be put on the monthly agenda.

The annual meeting will be held Oct. 17 to 24 in St. Louis. Please read J. Lee Alley's column, then make plans to attend.

## INSIDE

- News Briefs ..... 2
- USAHA People ..... 2
- President's Corner ..... 3
- Secretary's Corner ..... 4
- Ames Modernization Update ..... 5
- National Animal Health Lab Network ..... 6
- DeHaven Appointment ..... 7
- CWD: Where We Are Now ..... 8
- OIE: Questions & Answers ..... 10
- Idaho Brucellosis Update ..... 12
- CSF: Control Targets Wild Boars ..... 13

# J. Lee Alley, DVM



The USAHA/AAVLD annual meeting will be held Oct. 17 to 24, 2002, at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. The hotel reservation form is enclosed with this newsletter.

### REGISTRATION:

Be sure to complete and return the enclosed annual meeting registration form by Sept. 13, along with your credit card information or your check made out to USAHA. Anyone sending a check from outside the United States, please make your check payable in U.S. dollars on an American bank.

### REFUNDS:

The policy regarding refunds for those who preregister but are unable to attend the meeting is to withhold \$25 to cover processing and handling. Your request for a refund must be made in

writing within seven days after the close of the meeting.

### AGENDA:

A tentative agenda is enclosed. Please be sure to review the new agenda, because a few changes have been made since last year.

25 to guarantee a room at the convention rate. If USAHA/AAVLD

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## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

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### RESERVATIONS:

Please complete and return the form to the hotel as soon as possible: call 800/325-7353, fax 314/241-9601, or reserve online at [www.millennium-hotels.com](http://www.millennium-hotels.com). Use Group Code: 652 (see enclosed hotel reservation form). Reservations must be made by Sept.

members do not fill the entire hotel bloc, the organizations will be liable to pay for the meeting space, which is very costly.

### PRAYER BREAKFAST:

Sunday, Oct. 20, from 6:30 to 8:00am, please see the enclosure and also on the registration form.

### TOURS:

- See enclosures about three tours:
- Sunday, Oct. 20: Forest Park, Anheuser-Busch Brewery and two other stops.
  - Monday, Oct. 21: Overview of the city, with views of the Old Cathedral, Old Courthouse, Gateway Arch, stop at the New Cathedral and drive through the Central West End and Forest Park.
  - Tuesday, Oct. 22: A driving tour of St. Charles including Missouri's first state capitol, the Lewis & Clark Rendezvous, and the Zebulon Pike Expedition.

We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis. Please be sure to preregister by Sept. 13 and save your \$50.00!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

107th Annual Meeting  
Oct. 9-16, 2003

Town & Country Hotel  
San Diego, California

108th Annual Meeting  
Oct. 21-28, 2004

Sheraton Greensboro Hotel  
Greensboro, North Carolina

# Ames Modernization Plan Progresses

Contributed by Iowa State University

## Current Year Proposed Funds:

President Bush's current FY03 budget request contains no funds for the Master Plan. However, \$50 million for the Ames Modernization Plan is included in an emergency supplemental appropriations bill expected to pass the Senate. The House has not yet allocated any funds to modernizing Ames.

The proposed \$50 million will be used to construct approximately 25 percent of the laboratories for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) facilities in Ames, including a major component of the biosafety level 3 (BL-3) high-security laboratories. These laboratories are currently being planned and are the highest priority facilities in the USDA Master Plan for the Ames site.

BL-3 laboratories enable USDA scientists to work with pathogens that require higher levels of security. Many of these pathogens are potential bioterrorism agents or are economically important animal diseases. The immediate construction and use is essential to improve preparedness for an agroterrorism or bioterrorism emergency.

## Funding History:

The Ames Modernization Plan currently has \$99 million in federal funding, including \$9 million from FY01 and \$40 million from FY02 agriculture appropriations and \$50 million from FY02 Security Defense appropriations. These

funds are being used to design the entire facility and to construct BSL-3 Ag Animal accommodations. An additional \$14 million has been received for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) buildings and facilities. These funds will be used to relocate laboratories to the main USDA campus where a higher level of safety and security can be provided. This facility will be used for overflow and emergency needs once the Master Plan is completed.

## Stakeholder Support:

Tremendous stakeholder support has been expressed from all aspects of animal health and production for the Ames modernization plan. Two organizations of stakeholders, the Animal Agriculture Coalition and the U.S. Animal Health Association, have repeatedly emphasized the urgent need for new USDA animal health facilities to protect American agriculture, the food supply, and public health.

## Progress:

*Environmental Assessment*—An environmental evaluation is in progress to be completed by July 31.

*Selection of Architect and Engineering Firms*—In January, announcements were sent to 20 firms. Their statements were reviewed in March; eight were interviewed in April. USDA is negotiating with four firms: HOK, STV, Flad and Assoc., and Merrick. Once made this summer, assignment of specific roles and responsibilities will be determined. USDA was pleased with the quality of the firms.

*Large Animal BSL-3 Ag Facility*—The project team, in conjunction with the scientific staff, has been working with Merrick to develop the program requirements for the large animal facility. This effort is progressing well and should be completed by fall 2002. Construction is scheduled to begin in late calendar 2003.

## Joint Government Relations Committee Meeting

The recent USAHA Government Relations Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. brought together several key partners, including the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, represented by Dr. Patricia Blanchard (left). Also participating in the meeting were Dr. Wes Towers of Delaware (center) and Bob Frost of California.



# National Animal Health Laboratory Network

By Dr. Patricia Blanchard  
President, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

September 11 and human anthrax infections magnified the need to attain coordinated and cooperative preparedness among state and federal laboratories.

Although these highly visible events intensified the readiness efforts, the changes to the environment in which laboratories operate today began earlier.

In 2000, the OIE-member countries approved standards that closely follow the ISO17025 guide for laboratories performing tests for infectious diseases. Implementation of OIE standards places new demands on laboratories.

Animal industries have higher expectations of laboratories today than in the past, including early recognition and notification of emerging diseases and changing disease trends. This requires new methods to identify emerging diseases and greater communication among states. This level of communication is critical to an effective national surveillance system.

The 2001 FMD events and the devastating effect of a short delay in diagnosing and containing a highly infectious disease reinforce the need for expanded surveillance efforts. Furthermore, to expedite the decision-making process needed to control the disease, laboratories recognize the need to be prepared to offer testing after a disease is confirmed. Many of the rapid methods to diagnosis of foreign animal diseases and bioterrorism agents being developed today require equipment, training and expertise in molecular biotechnology.

Developing ways to use these trained individuals and equipment on a daily basis for rapid diagnosis of endemic diseases provides a cadre of experienced personnel ready to assist in a disease outbreak.

These changes impacting laboratories necessitate coordinated federal and state efforts and new sources of funds not available currently in state budgets.

A two-page information bulletin on the benefits, need and purpose of a

## Government Relations Committee



USAHA Government Relations Committee met Feb. 25 to 27, 2002 in Washington, D.C. The joint meeting with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians' Board of Directors and Chairman of the Government Relations Committee brought together USDA, Agricultural Research Service Acting Administrator Ed Knipling (pictured, left) and USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator Bobby Acord (pictured, right) and their key support staff. The group also met with animal industry representatives to address planning for an animal health disaster. This issue encompassed a number of critical related issues, including plans for a National Animal Health Lab Network.

# DeHaven Named Deputy Administrator

**W**. Ron DeHaven, DVM, has been named deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's veterinary services program.

"I am confident that Ron will continue to strengthen and invigorate the management in APHIS," said APHIS administrator Bobby R. Acord. "He brings a wealth of veterinary and regulatory experience to his new post in veterinary services."

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, DeHaven has lived in California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland. He graduated from veterinary school at Purdue University in 1975, then spent four years in the Army Veterinary Corps at Fort Carson, Co. In 1979, he entered reserve status with the Army and began his career with APHIS. After serving as a field veterinary medical officer in Kentucky, DeHaven moved to Jackson, Miss., as the assistant veterinarian-in-charge for the veterinary services' program.

While in Mississippi, he obtained a Masters of Business Administration from Millsaps College. He then moved to California to work for seven years as the regional director for animal care in the western states. In 1996, DeHaven was named acting deputy administrator of APHIS' animal care program and was later permanently placed in the position. Since October 2001, DeHaven has worked as the acting associate administrator for APHIS.

He lives with his wife Nancy in Crofton, Md. They have a daughter and a son.



proposed National Animal Health Laboratory Network can be found on the AAVLD web site at [www.aavld.org](http://www.aavld.org). Click on "Visitor," then go to "National Animal Lab Network" in the left menu box. This fact sheet has been used for our lobbying efforts. We encourage you to use it in educating your legislative representatives in Washington.

The Animal Agriculture Coalition, American Veterinary Medical Association and many laboratory directors within AAVLD have actively championed the plan to their states' legislators.

The Congressional conference committee completed revisions on the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (HR3448, Tauzin-Dingell and engrossed Senate

Bill 1765, Frist-Kennedy) on May 21. The House and Senate approved the conference report version on May 22 and 23 with only one nay vote. The bill has been sent to the White House.

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**AAVLD is on the web at  
[www.aavld.org](http://www.aavld.org)**

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Added language in section 335, in response to the efforts of many people on behalf of the national laboratory network, reads:

"a(6) develop an agricultural bioterrorism early warning surveillance system through enhancing the capacity of and coordination between state veterinary diagnostic laboratories, federal and

state agricultural research facilities and public health agencies;"

This section, though stating federal research facilities, must include NVSL and Plum Island as the federal laboratories vital to implementing the network concept. Appropriations for this section remained at the earlier level of \$190 million for fiscal year 2002, with such sums as necessary for subsequent years. No additional funding was added for the activities outlined in subsection a.6.

We need to continue our efforts to educate Congressmen and Senators on the critical service and surveillance roles of both state and federal laboratories. We also need make them aware of the need to fund fully this effort to establish and maintain a cooperative and integrated national animal health laboratory network.

## Chronic Wasting Disease: Where We Are Now

When chronic wasting disease (CWD) was first recognized in the late 1970s the disease was found only in certain parts of the west and only in wild deer and elk. The picture changed in 1997 when a farmed elk herd in South Dakota was diagnosed.

Since then, 24 farmed-elk herds in six states—Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota—as well as farmed elk and free-ranging mule deer in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan have been diagnosed. And the list is growing. This year, CWD turned up in free-ranging deer and elk in northwestern Nebraska, New Mexico, southwestern South Dakota, south central Wisconsin and the Colorado western slope, an area once thought to be protected by the barrier

of the Rocky Mountains. In addition, CWD was detected in farmed elk in the province of Alberta.

CWD, like “mad cow” disease, is one of a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Unlike bovine spongiform encephalopathy (or BSE), no scientific evidence indicates CWD poses a risk for traditional livestock species or humans. Species affected with CWD include elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer and black-tailed deer. Other ruminant species, including wild ruminants and domestic cattle, sheep and goats, have been housed in wildlife facilities in direct or indirect contact with CWD-affected deer and elk with no evidence of disease

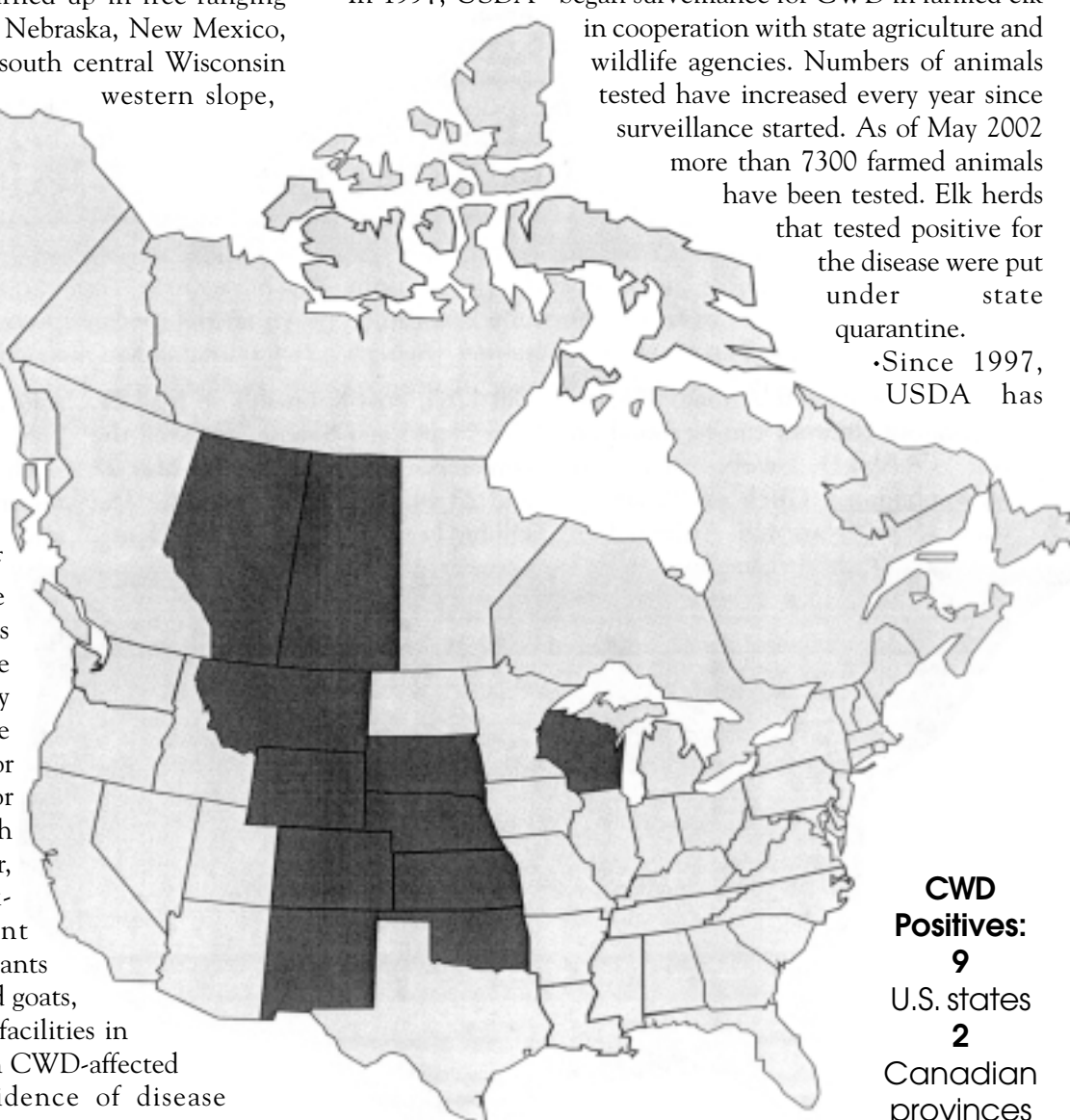
transmission. Researchers are continuing to explore the possibility of transmission of CWD to other species.

Because CWD affects free-ranging and farmed animals, controlling the disease before it becomes widespread is critical, according to Dr. Lynn Creekmore, senior staff veterinarian and wildlife disease liaison for USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). “Surveillance is extremely important. The first step in controlling the disease is knowing where it is,” she said.

Since the disease was first detected in farmed elk in 1997, activities to address CWD have stepped up vigorously:

- In 1997, USDA began surveillance for CWD in farmed elk in cooperation with state agriculture and wildlife agencies. Numbers of animals tested have increased every year since surveillance started. As of May 2002 more than 7300 farmed animals have been tested. Elk herds that tested positive for the disease were put under state quarantine.

• Since 1997, USDA has



**CWD  
Positives:**  
9  
U.S. states  
2  
Canadian  
provinces



assisted the states with CWD surveillance in free-ranging wildlife, assisting with sample collection and testing in more than 7000 deer and elk.

•In September 2001, USDA began a program to eradicate CWD in affected farmed elk populations. This involved testing, depopulating and indemnifying owners of positive herds. The Secretary has released \$2.6 million in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) emergency funds for this program.

•This fiscal year an additional \$12.2 million of emergency funding has been transferred to APHIS for depopulation, indemnity payments, cleaning and disinfection, and information dissemination on CWD. These funds will also be used to support surveillance and diagnostics in farmed and wild elk and deer.

•These emergency funds were used to purchase, euthanize and test approximately 500 trace animals from positive herds and more than 1600 animals from nine positive herds in three states that have been depopulated. Participating elk herdowners had their animals appraised, with USDA providing indemnification at 95 percent of the appraised value, which is capped at \$3,000 per elk.

•The President's fiscal year 2003 budget request includes an increase of \$7.2 million for nationwide CWD eradication and surveillance activities, which would be directed primarily toward farmed cervids. This level of funding underscores USDA's strong commitment to eliminating this serious health threat.

•In April 2002, USDA agreed to purchase farmed elk herds in the area of Colorado where free-ranging animals have tested positive. Some 16 ranches with about 1350 animals were involved in this program. Elk owners in the endemic area who agree to the indemnity will be allowed to restock their land with only non-cervid ruminants such as cattle, swine and sheep.

•In May 2002, USDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) formed a joint working group on CWD to

ensure a coordinated and cooperative federal approach to assisting the states with CWD response efforts. In late June the members delivered to Congress a national plan for assisting states, federal agencies and tribes. The working group will coordinate efforts of both departments in the

## Congress Hears CWD Plan

USDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) delivered to Congress, June 27, a national plan for assisting states, federal agencies and tribes in controlling the growing threat to elk and deer from chronic wasting disease.

Several states have established CWD programs. However, lack of resources in some states and uniform standards have prevented an effective nationwide program.

To fill this gap, the joint working group has developed a plan that addresses disease management, diagnostics, research, surveillance and information dissemination. Highlights of the plan include:

- Identification of best practices for herd management to help prevent introduction of CWD into the herd;
- How to prevent contact between free-ranging and captive animals, animal identification and culling versus eradication;
- Development of better tests for the disease, both postmortem and live-animal;
- Prioritizing critical research needs, genotyping and transmissibility;
- Describing best practices for targeted, hunter-harvest and outbreak surveillance; and
- Development of uniform standards for disease data collection and information transfer through a web-based application.

Plan details will soon be available on the web at:  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/cwd/index.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/cwd/index.html)

areas of research, surveillance and management. Bobby Acord, APHIS Administrator, and Steve Williams, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will cochair the working group. DOI, through the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, provides assistance to, cooperates with, and, in some cases, co-manages with states to ensure healthy viable wildlife populations. The U.S. Geological Survey is DOI's principal science and research agency, and conducts extensive biological studies on wildlife diseases.

•USDA is working with states and industry to address additional indemnification issues. While participation is voluntary, producers who choose not to have an eligible herd depopulated will have their herds remain under state quarantine with strict movement restrictions.

No one knows how CWD is transmitted, but evidence suggests that the most important means of transmission of CWD is direct animal-to-animal contact or contact with a contaminated environment. State animal health officials

*Continued on page 14*

# An Interview with OIE's Dr. Vallat

By Ernest Zirkle, DVM

*Editor's Note:* This question and answer feature is the first of a two-part interview with Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the Office of International Epizootics (OIE). The questions, submitted to Dr. Zirkle by USAHA members, serve to inform and enlighten our membership of essential issues.

## **1 Please explain the process by which the Office of International Epizootics (OIE) develops disease-specific standards for safe international movement of livestock, poultry and related products?**

OIE's disease-specific standards, guidelines and recommendations are documents developed by scientific experts in the specific field and then reviewed and adopted by the International Committee of the OIE, made up of 162 delegates from Member Countries.

When the need to develop a new standard is brought to the attention of the OIE by one or more of its Members, the OIE calls on an internationally renowned expert to draft a supporting document which serves as the foundation for the standard to be developed. Once the supporting document has been received by the OIE, it convenes an ad hoc group of the most qualified experts, each representing in principle one of the five regions of the OIE.

This group meets at the OIE headquarters for two to three days and develops the first draft chapter, with the participation of one of the members of the OIE specialized Commissions. This draft is then circulated by the Code Commission (made up of six experts elected by the International Committee), as part of their report to all OIE Members for comment. Based on the comments received, the Code Commission then determines whether there is a need for an additional consultation of the ad hoc group, or whether it can incorporate the comments received and then re-submit it for comments from the Member Countries. This process is repeated until the Code Commission feels it can recommend to the Director General the draft chapter be submitted for adoption by the next annual meeting of the International Committee.

So, prior to adoption, the Members receive the draft at least twice for review and comment. The chapter is adopted by the International Committee by consensus, although on rare occasions, adoption has been conducted by majority vote.

Dr. Vallat was elected to his post in May 2000 by the International Committee, which brings together delegates of all Member Countries. His five-year mandate started Jan. 1, 2001.

## **2 How is the OIE dues schedule determined?**

The dues schedule of the OIE is strictly voluntary. It is

generally determined on the basis of the size and importance of the livestock industry of the Member Country and of its interest for OIE activities. There are six categories of dues from 12,630 euros in category 6 and 105,250 euros in category 1.

## **3 Please explain the process and criteria by which OIE categorizes diseases into Lists A, B and C? Is this classification system appropriate for our current world community?**

OIE categorizes diseases into two categories according to the urgency of reporting. Although List A diseases is designed for those diseases that require immediate reporting by Member Countries, today List A diseases are being treated by countries as having greater importance than List B. Some countries treat List A diseases differently from others in their legislation, even some international organizations allocate and prioritize projects according to whether these diseases are in List A or not.

However, according to the provisions of the WTO-SPS agreement, there are no diseases of higher importance for trade purposes than others. All reportable diseases should be considered as having equal importance; what is important is the health status of importing and exporting countries in relation to a certain disease.

In order to clarify this situation, the OIE is reviewing this classification system and is proposing new procedure on Member obligations for notification of diseases with specific criteria on urgency of reporting and on human health consequences.

## **4 Does OIE participate in the WTO dispute resolution process? If so, how?**

The OIE, as the recognized standard-setting organization for animal health and zoonoses is an active member of the WTO-SPS process. In addition to having an observer status in all SPS Committee meetings, the OIE offers

## OIE's Missions

- To guarantee the transparency of animal disease status world-wide
- To collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary scientific information
- To provide expertise and promote international solidarity for the control of animal diseases
- To guarantee the sanitary safety of world trade by developing sanitary rules for international trade in animals and animal products

technical advice and provides lists of experts, on request from the WTO, for dispute settlement panels. The Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes of the OIE serve as the standards for countries to apply during international trade. When countries take measures that are stricter than those of the OIE standard, the importing country is obliged to justify this decision via a scientific process.

In addition to the role being played by the OIE in the WTO dispute settlement process, the OIE has its own dispute settlement procedures. However, these are non-legally-binding efforts on the part of the OIE to assist countries that wish to voluntarily participate in an early resolution of trade disputes.

### **5 Please explain the process and criteria by which OIE recognizes countries as free of specific diseases and how such claims are verified.**

The OIE has a procedure to declare countries free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). A procedure is being established this year to determine if countries comply with the OIE *International Animal Health Code (Code)* as free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

A country that wishes to be declared free from FMD, rinderpest, CBPP or BSE must submit a complete application on a voluntary basis. For example, a country applying to be free from FMD must address the requirements in the appropriate article of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Code*. In addition, the country must answer the OIE questionnaire. The following is an outline of the subject headings of the questionnaire:

- a.Introduction:** *regional framework, livestock industry*
- b.Veterinary system:** *legislation; official veterinary service; role of society, farmers, industry, Veterinary profession*
- c.FMD eradication:** *history, strategy, vaccines and vaccination, organization, execution, animal identification/movement, official veterinary service supervision*
- d.FMD surveillance:** *diagnosis (clinical—notification and investigation procedures, recent numbers; laboratory—procedures, numbers with results of submissions), serological surveillance, livestock demographics and economics, slaughterhouses and markets, official veterinary service supervision*



**e.FMD prevention:** *regional coordination, import control, policy and risk assessment, animals and products (ports/frontiers; international garbage; animals; genetic material—semen and embryos; meats and other animal products—milk, meat products; biologics) biological security, official veterinary service supervision*

**f.Response to outbreak:** *policy (emergency, plans, funds), epidemiological studies (origin, diffusion)*

Another example is the application for rinderpest must address the requirements in Section 2.1.4 and Appendix 3.8.1 of the *Code*; for CBPP, the requirements in Section 2.1.6. and Appendix 3.8.2. must be addressed. The Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Epizootics Commission considers the applications and, if approval is recommended, other Member Countries have 60 days to ask a review of the application.

A Member Country can object to the approval on technical grounds and the Commission must decide if the objection is valid. The list of countries recommended for approval is submitted to the International Committee for final approval at the annual May meeting.

The Commission often asks for a representative from the country to attend their meeting to answer questions. In addition, the Commission may ask for additional information, which will delay approval until the next meeting. The Commission can send a team to the country at the country's expense but this is done on rare occasions.

### **6 What steps does OIE take to encourage Member Countries to fulfill the WTO pledge to assist developing countries to conform to the principles of the WTO-SPS Agreement?**

As an active participant of the WTO-SPS process, the OIE is involved in numerous activities aimed at providing technical assistance to developing countries. The OIE regularly meets with the WTO secretariat and other relevant international organizations, as part of an interagency coordination group, to report on and coordinate efforts in this area. Additionally, the OIE regularly participates with its staff and experts in WTO-sponsored capacity-building workshops and seminars.

*Continued on page 13*

# Idaho Brucellosis Linked to Wildlife

By Bob Hillman, DVM  
Idaho State Veterinarian

On Apr. 15, 2002, blood tests on a cattle herd from Fremont County in eastern Idaho revealed six animals were positive to serologic tests for brucellosis. The cattle herd, consisting of 50 adults and 10 yearling heifers, was tested because of exposure to a brucellosis-affected wild elk herd that was on the cattle's wintering and feeding areas of the ranch.

This cattle herd has been tested annually since 1998 because of the potential exposure to brucellosis-infected wild elk each winter on the herd's winter-feeding area. All the cattle were negative on each of the previous four annual tests. The cattle herd owner has chosen to feed elk in association with the cattle herd against the advice and

the cattle ranch, then migrate back into the park in the spring.

State and federal animal health officials collected milk samples for *Brucella* culture from each of the serologic reactors. Idaho animal health officials were notified on May 8, 2002 that samples from one of the serologic reactors yielded *Brucella abortus* biovar 1 on culture at NVSL.

Immediately upon receiving the final serology results on Apr. 17, state and federal animal health officials begin an epidemiological investigation to identify other cattle herds that may have been exposed to brucellosis or may have been the source of brucellosis infection. Thirteen herds, consisting of approximately 1,300 cattle, were identified as potentially exposed or potential sources of

destinations. Of the cattle shipped out-of-state, some were shipped directly to ranches in Nebraska. Others were sold at a livestock market in Wyoming and subsequently shipped to Kansas and Nebraska.

Animal health officials in Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas quickly traced and tested all the potentially exposed cattle that had not been slaughtered. All of the contact and adjacent herd cattle, which included animals in 38 herds in three states, were negative to the brucellosis test. Review of MCI records revealed that none of the slaughtered cattle were MCI reactors.

The infected herd was depopulated, with federal indemnity, on June 4 and 5, 2002.

## Issues and Concerns

All of the epidemiological and laboratory information clearly indicates that brucellosis-infected elk transmitted the disease to the cattle herd. *Brucella abortus* biovar 1 was isolated from both elk and cattle on the same premises. The elk and cattle were fed in close association on the cattle winter feedground. All potential cattle sources of disease were negative to the brucellosis tests.

This case illustrates the threat to the cattle industry of the United States from brucellosis-infected wildlife. Either *Brucella abortus* must be eliminated from all susceptible animals in the country or this kind of episode will be repeated over and over again.

This is the seventh case of epidemiologically linked transmission of brucellosis from wildlife to livestock since the 1960s. The last previous case was the Parker Land and Cattle case in Wyoming in 1989.

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**All of the contact and adjacent herd cattle, which included animals in 38 herds in three states, were negative to the brucellosis test.**

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recommendation of the state/federal animal health officials and the state fish and game officials.

During the winter of 2001/2002, animal health and fish and game officials captured and tested wild elk on the cattle ranch. One serologic reactor was slaughtered. Tissue samples were collected and submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for *Brucella* culturing. *Brucella abortus* biovar 1 was isolated from the elk.

The wild elk wintering on this ranch migrate out of Yellowstone National Park in the fall, spend the winter on

infection. Eight of these herds pastured in common with the infected herd during the summer of 2001. The other five were adjacent herds. The epidemiological investigation revealed the only addition to the index herd during the past five years had been a bull, which was negative on the herd test.

Cattle from all the contact and adjacent herds were traced. Some cull cows and bulls had been slaughtered. A number of yearling females had been sold to feedlots. Approximately 400 potentially exposed bred beef heifers had been sold to out-of-state

# Classical Swine Fever Control Targets Wild Boars

By Laura Kelly

Classical swine fever (CSF), also called hog cholera, is a severe disease of swine caused by a pestivirus in the family *Flaviviridae*. Although eradicated from the United States in the 1970s, CSF remains a significant problem in domestic swine around the world, and its recurrence in the United States could be economically devastating. In some European countries, wild swine (called European wild boars) play a role in the epidemiology of CSF, and some disease control measures are targeted at these animals.

The origin of CSF is uncertain, but by the 1860s, the disease was widespread in Europe and America. The United States launched an eradication program in 1961 and the last case was reported in 1976. However, CSF remains a costly problem to swine producers in several countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe, as well as a potential threat to the United States.

In 1980, the European Union instituted measures with the goal of CSF eradication. Control strategies in domestic swine include depopulation of affected and suspect animals, surveillance, and restriction of animal movements. Efforts also have been made to control CSF in wild boars because endemic infections or disease outbreaks have been identified in boar populations in parts of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, and the Ukraine. In Germany, wild boars are regarded as a primary risk factor for infection of domestic swine.

Since 1998, the European Commission has promoted selective hunting to control CSF in wild boars.

Under this protocol, hunting is discouraged when an outbreak is first identified in order to reduce potential dispersal of infected animals. After six months, selective hunting of young pigs may be employed to reduce the susceptible population. Reduction of older animals in the affected population is regarded as unnecessary because they most likely have developed immunity. These management methods reportedly eliminated a 1998 outbreak in wild boars in Switzerland.

The European Commission also advocates targeted vaccination campaigns among well-defined wild boar populations. Vaccination campaigns will last at least two years. Additional objectives include minimal seroconversion rates of 80 percent in populations of 1,000 animals and 60 percent in populations of 500. In a German field trial in the mid-1990s, oral vaccine was administered to wild boars via baits. Bait uptake ranged from 85 percent to 100 percent, and seroconversion rates among animals older than two years ranged between 63.2 percent and 100 percent. However, seroconversion rates were only 44 percent among animals under one year, even after distributing vaccine-laden oral baits four times.

Additional studies have shown that domestic pigs vaccinated with the oral C-strain vaccine still become viremic and shed virus after challenge with CSF virus, but viral spread to unvaccinated animals was decreased. Several recent studies have been devoted to development of "marker vaccines" that would allow the distinction between vaccinated and naturally infected pigs. Although safe,

the effectiveness of one candidate vaccine was less than ideal because transplacental infection was decreased but not eliminated. An effective marker vaccine and companion serologic test are desirable components of CSF control and eradication strategies, thus their development remains an area of active research.

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*Continued from page 11*

As part of the 2001-2005 Strategic Plan, the OIE identified capacity building efforts towards developing countries as one of its high priority initiatives. The OIE has also submitted for external funding a proposal for strengthening the Veterinary Services and reference laboratories of developing countries as well as for funding the participation of professionals from developing countries to ad hoc expert group meetings at the OIE headquarters.

The Director General of the OIE signed an official commitment with the Directors General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the President of the World Bank during the WTO International Conference held in Doha in 2001 who commit these five organizations to assist developing countries in particular in the setting up and implementation of international standards.

Continued from page 9

and USDA Veterinary Services personnel are gathering epidemiological information that may help explain how the disease spreads.

“Continuing the research to learn how and when the disease agent is shed and passed from animal to animal is critical,” Dr. Creekmore said. She noted that the agencies in Colorado and Wyoming have done a great deal of work on this aspect of the disease.

The agent responsible for CWD and other animal TSEs, has not been completely characterized. However, three main theories exist about the nature of the agent that causes CWD:

1. The agent is an abnormal form of a normal protein, known as cellular prion protein, most commonly found in the central nervous system. The abnormal prion protein “infects” the host animal by promoting conversion

of normal cellular prion protein to the abnormal form;

2. The agent is an unconventional virus; or

3. The agent is a virino or “incomplete” virus composed of nucleic acid protected by host proteins. The CWD agent is smaller than most viral particles and does not evoke any detectable immune response or inflammatory reaction in the host animal. Based on experience with other TSE agents, the CWD agent is assumed to be resistant to enzymes and chemicals that normally break down proteins. The agent is also resistant to heat and normal disinfection procedures.

Most cases are in adult animals. The disease is progressive and always fatal. Animals lose weight, are listless, keep their heads low, have blank facial expressions, and walk repetitively in set patterns. They can show signs of

hyperexcitability and nervousness, and may salivate and urinate excessively, and grind their teeth.

While no live animal diagnostic tests, researchers are working to develop one. Currently, definitive diagnosis can only be done by examination after an animal is dead. On microscopic examination, lesions of CWD in the central nervous system resemble those of other TSEs. Additionally, scientists use a technique called immunohistochemistry to test brain tissue for the presence of the abnormal prion protein to diagnose.

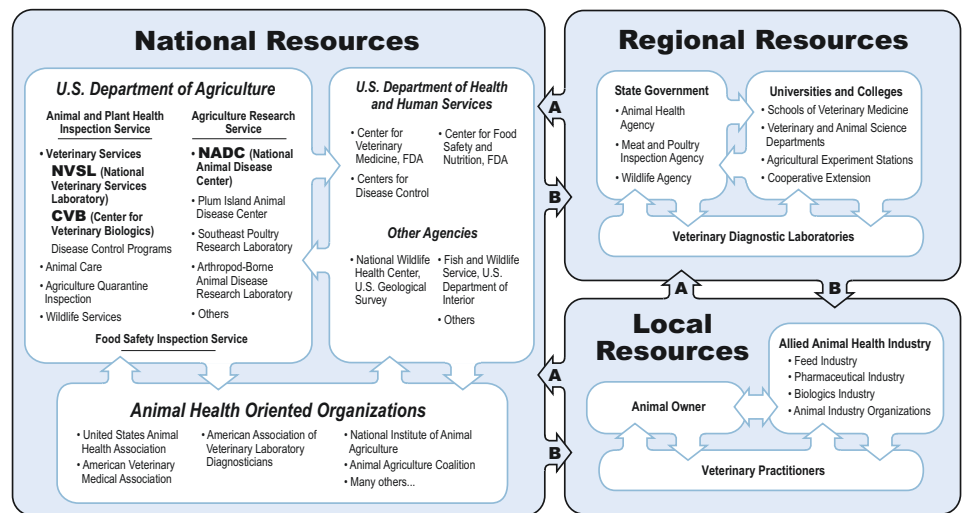
As a result of the CWD eradication program in Colorado and Wyoming, scientists have had an increased opportunity to collect specimens for study, Creekmore said. “While it is sad, at the same time it may help validate and develop tests and help us learn how the disease is distributed in the body.”

Continued from page 1

Transfer of APHIS and its animal health-related programs, including Veterinary Services, from USDA to USDHS represents a major change in management and coordination of the nation’s animal health care delivery system. Implementation and feasibility of this aspect of the APHIS transfer must be carefully examined and planned from the perspective of urgent, wartime national security needs and long-term, animal health needs in both war and peacetime.

For 105 years, the United States Animal Health Association has served our nation as its preeminent science-based forum for animal health matters. Once again USAHA has the opportunity to serve our country in a time of great peril and need. By focusing the Association’s all-volunteer membership and committee resources, USAHA can provide timely recommendations and solutions to any animal health-related problems that may arise associated with President Bush’s proposal. This is

### Delivering Health Care to the Nation's 1.7 Billion Plus Animals (Selected Resources and Activities)



R. McCapes 5/01  
R. Hayes

a task USAHA is uniquely qualified to carry out.

USAHA Executive Committee members will track the progress of the proposed legislation and seek opportunities for the Association’s deliberation and input during the legislative process. The goal is to continue promoting and supporting

policies that will provide the best animal health programs in war and peacetime. In doing that, USAHA can help ensure continued protection of animal agriculture, wildlife and the public, while maintaining the production of the most abundant, safest and affordable supply of food and fiber.