The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) invites all animal health stakeholders to attend its 115th 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 7:50 a.m. Speaker details can be found on page 4.

The meeting also features a number of other high-interest topics in animal health. A feature of this year’s meeting includes a dedicated symposium on rabies, to be held Wednesday, October 5.

USAHA anticipates excellent programs from 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.

“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. Additional information about AAVLD can be found at www.aavld.org.

AAVLD Plenary Session to Feature Tuberculosis

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.”

A complete list of speakers can be found on page 4.
Sitting here at my keyboard in mid-August, contemplating my message to USAHA members and partners in anticipation of our 2011 Annual Meeting, I find myself being distracted by events in the news. Downgrading of the U.S. credit status, riots in England, wild swings in stock values, soaring gold and silver prices, crude oil price volatility, debt crisis in Europe, record-setting and near record-setting droughts, seemingly insurmountable political partisanship…and the list goes on. I’m most definitely not an economist. I’m also not a commodities analyst, a political pundit, or an authority on global weather. Even so—or maybe especially so, while I see these events as distracting for the disturbances they are, they also serve to provide focus because of what’s not on the list: food crisis.

It is a fundamental fact that we have food. Food in astounding variety and volume, such that the average U.S. and Canadian citizen spends less than 10% of their income (Mexican citizens spend about twice this) to feed themselves and their families. This is not to ignore what is also familiar fact to all of us—that we do periodically have newsworthy food related concerns. Concerns such as disease outbreaks leading to animal population impacts, food borne agents causing human illness, and certainly there are critical food shortages in many parts of the world and “food desert” and nutrition concerns here in the U.S. Likewise, non-food related animal agriculture concerns such as animal welfare, zoonotic diseases, and equine population management, also call for and deserve attention. But these concerns bring me, finally, to the point that I want to make: we, the animal agriculturists, through USAHA where much of the leadership function takes place, have done an excellent job of quietly paying attention and responding—managing animal health and welfare and providing animal based agriculture products to the world.

Because of these efforts, agriculture enjoys a favorably high profile with politicians, financiers, and aligned corporations—and is a leading interest to consumers who increasingly want to have a say in what farming is, and what it produces. This strong position presents opportunities. I know I don’t have a clue about how to resolve the U.S. debt crisis; maybe some of you do—if so I hope you’ll get right on it. For the rest of us, let’s focus on what we can influence. I believe it’s important more so now than ever to participate in USAHA and to attend the USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting, as animal agriculturists have done 114 times previous, to develop and promote strategies for humanely produced animal agriculture products, and to continue to meet the increasing demand for safe, secure, nutritious, wholesome, and plentiful food. On behalf of your Executive Committee and professional staff, I look forward to seeing you—and continuing this important work together—in Buffalo!

Steven L. Halstead

2010-2011 USAHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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It is really difficult for me to believe that in a couple short months we will be convening in beautiful Buffalo, New York for our annual AAVLD/USAHA meetings. The plenary programs are really coming together and I can tell you that they will be the best ever, thanks to the hard work and diligence of Dr. Tim Baszler, Program Chair and his able Co-Chair, Dr. Tom McKenna. This year’s AAVLD plenary is entitled Bovine Tuberculosis: Here Today, Here Tomorrow? and will be delivered by a world class group of speakers, including two experts from outside the US. The joint USAHA/AAVLD plenary is to be focused on food security with titles currently being finalized. This timely and informative session will be moderated by Dr. Terry McElwain from Washington State University. Both plenary sessions will be followed by panel discussions and Q&A sessions. The AAVLD scientific sessions are also really shaping up. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to attend your favorite selection of the 95 high quality oral presentations and to review the 44 mind-expanding poster sessions in the fields of diagnostic pathology, microbiology, toxicology, epidemiology and beyond.

What an exciting year the AAVLD has had, transitioning to the Scholar One abstract and meeting management software (Tim Baszler and Tom McKenna), moving JVDI over to the prestigious Sage Publishing group (Jerry Saliki and his editorial team), the overhaul of the AAVLD web site (Vanessa Garrison), and the fight for continued, and hopefully increased, funding of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network via AAVLD lobbying efforts. Many thanks to Barb Powers for her incredible leadership in this effort and for the assistance of the AVMA, AAVMC, USAHA and Brad Mollet of Capitol Partners.

I have especially enjoyed working side-by-side with Dr. Steve Halstead, President, USAHA. He is such an outstanding leader for animal health and we are so very lucky to have him on the USAHA leadership team. Furthermore, the USAHA Executive Committee has been such a supportive, warm and collegial group to work with. I want to also recognize Ben Richey, USAHA Executive Director and his team for the unbelievable support they provide for both associations all year around. On the AAVLD side of the house, the energy, intellect and productivity of our Executive Board members and our administrative staff officer, Vanessa Garrison, never cease to amaze me. The generous and astute guidance provided by AAVLD Immediate Past President Gary Anderson and Treasurer John Adaska has been priceless. I must also thank the dozens of committee chairs and members in both the AAVLD and the USAHA for all of your work toward strengthening our animal agriculture. Truly, I have never experienced a stronger or more satisfying sense of teamwork and cooperation in my career. It is so amazing how much can be accomplished when we all work together.

It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my career to serve as the AAVLD president this year. Soon, I will be passing the gavel on to President-Elect, Dr. Tim Baszler, who I know will take the AAVLD to new heights. The AAVLD looks forward to many more decades of cooperation with the USAHA as we tackle new problems, refine our goals, and set the stage for the future of animal agriculture.

Thanks for everything you all do for the AAVLD and the USAHA. I am looking forward to seeing you in Buffalo!
2011 Plenary Session Information

**Evolving Food Systems for Global Food Security: Can Animal Production and Veterinary Infrastructure Keep Up?**
*Monday, October 3, 7:50 am*

7:50 am  Welcome- David Marshall, DVM, USAHA Vice President and Program Co-Chair
8:00 am  Making Safe, Affordable, and Abundant Food a Global Reality - Mr. Ted McKinney, Elanco Animal Health
8:40 am  Markets, Infrastructure and Animal Production - Dr. Tom Marsh, Ph.D., School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University
9:20 am  Role of Veterinarians in Global Food Security - Dr. Ron DeHaven, Executive VP, AVMA
10:00 am  Break
10:20 am  Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories’ Role in Food Security - Dr. Alfonso Torres, Associate Dean for Public Policy, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
11:00 am  Eradication of Rinderpest as a Working Example of Protecting Food Security - Dr. William Taylor, United Kingdom, Consultant to the FAO
11:40 am  Food Security Discussion, Questions and Answers- Panel of Speakers

**AAVLD Plenary Session - Bovine Tuberculosis: Here Today, Here Tomorrow?**
*Saturday, October 1, 8:00 am*

*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: What Makes it Such a Difficult Bug to Control? – Dr. David Russell, Cornell University
Advances in Immunological Ante-moertem Diagnosis of Bovine Tuberculosis: New Test Formats, Novel Antigens, Biomarkers, DIVA Diagnosis in the Face of Vaccination – Dr. Martin Vordimeier, Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency, UK
Progress in the Development of Vaccines against Bovine Tuberculosis – Dr. Bryce Buddle, AgResearch and Hopkirk Research Institute, New Zealand.
Epidemiology and Control of Bovine Tuberculosis in the United States: USDA’s Perspective – Dr. Alecia Naugle, USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services.
Roundtable Question & Answer Discussion

**Other Notable Events...**
AAVLD Member Reception and Auction - Friday, Sept. 30, 6:00 p.m.
USAHA All-Districts Breakfast - Sunday, Oct. 2, 7:00 a.m. ($15)
USAHA/AAVLD President's Reception and Dinner - Sunday, Oct. 2, 5:30 p.m.
USAHA Membership Meetings - Monday, Oct. 3, 12:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2:00 p.m.
How to Register

Log on to www.usaha.org, and click the link for the 115th Annual Meeting. From the Annual Meeting page, you will see a registration section - you can download the printable form or use the secure online registration process.

PRE REGISTRATION ENDS SEPTEMBER 9!!

Reservations

Reservations will be handled by the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau, through their online reservation portal. This will allow you to select which hotel you wish to stay in. Space will be limited, available on a first come, first served basis. Please note: Do not contact hotels directly to make your reservation!

Make your reservations today: https://www.mmxreservations.com/BUFFALOCVB/reservations/Events.asp

Reservations should be made by August 30, 2011. (If you encounter problems with your online reservation, please call Karen at CVB Reservations at 1-888-228-3369 ext. 235.)

NOTE: To change your reservation, please use the link included in your confirmation email.

Rabies Symposium to be Hosted at USAHA

The USAHA One Health Rabies Symposium will bring together rabies prevention advocates to speak about the North American as well as global public health impact of rabies. Rabies prevention requires a multi-faceted “One Health” approach consisting of post-exposure prophylaxis of humans, vaccination of pets and livestock, and the control of wildlife rabies through surveillance and oral rabies vaccination of reservoir species. These One Health partnerships are being expanded around the world to address the 55,000 human deaths each year due to rabies. The event will consist of 8 speakers each giving a 20 minute presentation followed by 5-10 minutes of Q & A.

The purpose of the symposium is to re-energize participants interest in rabies prevention and to learn more about World Rabies Day. The Symposium will serve as the rabies scientific session of the USAHA national 2011 meeting. A complete agenda will follow, once the speakers and agenda are finalized.

One Health Luncheon

In conjunction with the 2011 USAHA meeting to follow the Rabies Symposium, Merial and the Global Alliance on Rabies Control (GARC) is pleased to welcome Mr. Jeff Corwin, Animal Planet host and leading conservationist, speaking on “100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth’s Most Endangered Species” for a special One Health luncheon.

The luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 5 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is $25 per person. Proceeds from the luncheon will go to benefit GARC. Learn more about their work at www.rabiescontrol.net.

You can register for the luncheon with your meeting registration, or add it if you have already registered, simply go to www.usaha.org and click on the 115th Annual Meeting link.

To Do in Buffalo

Buffalo boasts a wide variety of entertainment and attractions during your stay.

Niagara Falls is just a short 20 minute drive from Buffalo, with opportunities from both the U.S. and Canadian borders.

A number of performing arts opportunities in the downtown area. See the fall colors of upstate New York - rent a car or schedule your own tour!

If the water is more your flavor, try a Buffalo Harbor boat tour on Lake Erie.

To make your individual arrangements for tours, log on to the Buffalo-Niagara Visitors and Convention Bureau web site at www.visitbuffaloniagara.com.

There are a number of restaurants in the downtown area, within walking distance or a short cab ride from either hotel. Don’t forget, Buffalo is the home of the world famous ”buffalo wings,” so be sure to try the originals at Anchor Bar or Duff’s during your trip.

REMINDER - BRING YOUR PASSPORT TO VISIT CANADA/NIAGARA FALLS!
One of the “duties” of the President-Elect of the USAHA is to attend the annual meeting of the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) in Paris, France as part of the official United States delegation. This year the meeting was held May 22-27, and it was my distinct privilege to represent our organization. The opportunity to be exposed to and learn the process that goes into negotiating international animal disease control and movement standards is truly fascinating, and will be of great benefit to me personally while conducting state-side regulatory activities. I hope to be able to share what I learned with the organization’s general membership as we conduct our business in the coming year. I would also like to thank Dr. Michael David for sharing his excellent meeting summary document to supplement my own notes for this report.

Attending the meeting were delegates from the 178 OIE Member countries and territories, as well as observers from more than 50 regional and international organizations. High level authorities including the President of Paraguay and Ministers of Agriculture from 12 member countries also attended. The US delegation was ably composed of: Dr. John Clifford, OIE Delegate and Deputy Administrator, APHIS; Dr. Michael David, Director, National Center for Import/Export (NCIE), APHIS, VS; Dr. Peter Fernandez, Regional Manager, APHIS, IS, Brussels, Belgium; Dr. Tim Baszler, President-Elect, AAVLD; Dr. Paul Sundberg, VP of Science and Technology, National Pork Board; Dr. Elizabeth Sabin, Asst. Director, Education and Research Division, AVMA; Dr. Elizabeth Parker, Chief Veterinarian, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association; Dr. Jamie Jonker, VP, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, National Milk Producers Federation; and myself. Dr. Baszler and I were the only first time attendees, and greatly benefitted from a comprehensive orientation session by Dr. David prior to the first meeting.

Two technical presentations were given, the first topic addressing the “implementation of a global strategy for FMD control.” The presenter detailed the efforts of several international organizations, including the OIE and the FAO, in developing and implementing a strategy with the goal of eradicating the disease. Interestingly, in his opening address, Dr. Carlos Correa Messuti, president of the World Assembly, stated that while some advances in the eradication of FMD have been made in certain regions of the world, global control of the disease has taken a step backwards and greater efforts to contain its spread are needed. Later in the meeting, the President of the Scientific Commission expressed concern over certain Members’ lack of timeliness in submitting required documentation to verify FMD status. This was a bit concerning to me, and reinforces our collective need to keep up our vigilance in excluding foreign animal diseases. The other technical presentation focused on “the contribution of veterinary activities to global food security”, which dovetails nicely with this year’s theme for the Joint Plenary session to be held at the annual meeting in Buffalo. The challenge of feeding an increasingly expanding global population has moved front and center as a key responsibility for the veterinary profession, and this year’s OIE discussions reinforced that concept to me.

The Joint Plenary Scientific Session on Oct. 3rd will provide an in-depth look at the issue and I encourage everyone to attend what should be an excellent and informative session.

One of the main efforts of the year round work of the OIE is to revise chapters in the aquatic and terrestrial animal health codes. This year the Terrestrial Code Commission amended, rewrote, or removed in excess of 50 animal code chapters. While most were pretty mundane, of particular interest to me was Chapter 3.2, Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The OIE has taken increased interest recently in participating in the process of evaluating competencies and skill sets of graduate veterinarians involved in regulatory medicine. They have conducted several recent country evaluations utilizing their PVS tool to assess a nation’s veterinary infrastructure and provide consultation and guidance for improvement. The Commission also evaluated disease status applications from various countries for approval or disapproval. Most voting is relatively unanimous and not controversial because of the extensive work that has occurred prior to the meeting. Observing this process was helpful to me in reinforcing the importance of our USAHA commenting process on these code chapters, typically in December of each year.

Another highlight for me was being able to observe the ceremony celebrating the world’s “freedom from rinderpest in its natural setting.” This is only the second documented disease eradicated in the world (smallpox being the other), and efforts will now be directed towards those institutions holding virus containing material. Although the Code chapter on rinderpest will be “suspended” and annual proof of freedom will no longer be required, it will remain on the OIE list of notifiable diseases. This event tied nicely with the celebration of 2011 as
World Veterinary Year and the celebration of the 250th year of the veterinary profession after establishment of the first veterinary school in Lyon, France in 1761. France issued a special postage stamp and OIE postmark in commemoration of the event.

In addition, of particular pleasure to our delegation was being able to see Dr. Clifford elected as president of the 30 country Regional Commission of the Americas. This is quite an honor and representative of the respect that the United States and USDA has in our region of the world. The breadth of scientific expertise and dedication to the cause of all of the US delegates was gratifying to me. Other routine matters of business included reports from various international organizations on their activities, including the WHO, Codex Alimentarius, FAO, and the WTO; reports from various ad hoc expert groups; and updates from the Biological Standards Commission (Laboratories) on their accreditation, collaboration, and “twinning projects” activities in addition to updating chapters in the “Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines.”

It was certainly my pleasure to participate in the meeting and I am grateful to the organization for allowing me to do so. Paris in May is all it’s cracked up to be. Those interested in a more detailed summary of the meeting can contact Dr. Michael David at APHIS for more information.

There will be several interesting activities for those of you that want to take a few hours and discover the beauty of New York State:

Sunday’s tour will have 2 options. A bus will leave the Adams Mark at 1:00 pm for those interested in the Martin House. Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) designed a unique residential complex for wealthy Buffalo businessman Darwin D. Martin and his family between 1903-1905. The most substantial and highly developed of Wright’s Prairie houses in the Eastern United States, The Darwin D. Martin House received National Historic Landmark status in 1986. The house is considered by leading Wright scholars as one of Wright’s finest achievements of the Prairie period and, indeed, of his entire career. The complex consists of five interconnected buildings designed as a unified composition.

The bus will then continue on to Clarence and drop those that prefer antiques to architecture at the Antique World, the largest “pickers” market in WNY with over 100,000 square feet of treasures. Clarence is 15 miles outside of Buffalo and a scenic drive in itself.

You will return to the Adams Mark by 5:00 pm from either tour in time for the Presidents dinner.

On Monday you will discover why millions of visitors from around the world flock to Niagara Falls every year to experience the power, majesty and beauty of this natural wonder. Visit Niagara Falls State Park, the oldest state park in the United States, originally conceived by famed landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. A scenic drive around Goat Island offers spectacular views of the Horseshoe Falls at Terrapin Point, the American Falls at Luna Island, Three Sisters Islands and the Upper Niagara River Rapids. After admiring the breathtaking view from the Prospect Point Observation Tower, you will descend into the Niagara Gorge and climb aboard the Maid of the Mist (founded in 1846 and the oldest tourist attraction in North America) for an unforgettable cruise to the base of the Horseshoe Falls. You will travel into Canada (proof of citizenship required for all passengers) for a fabulous luncheon in picturesque Victoria Park at Edgewaters Tap & Grill which offers panoramic views of both the American and Horseshoe Falls. Following lunch, your afternoon drive will take you along the Niagara Gorge from Table Rock, to see sights that include the Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture, the Floral Clock, the Adam Beck 2 Generating Station before returning to your hotel. A CURRENT PASSPORT will be required.

BORDER CROSSING INFORMATION:
Proper proof of citizenship required traveling into Canada. Passengers must carry a Valid Passport, Passport Card or Enhanced Driver’s License. Any passenger without proper proof at boarding may be refused boarding. For more information, please visit www.getyouhome.gov.

Additional information may be found on www.cbp.gov and www.cbsa.gc.ca. Foreign nationals should contact their respective governments to obtain Canadian and US visa information.

The Monday tour will depart at 9:00 am and return by 5:00 pm. Both tours depart from the Adam’s Mark Hotel.

Cost of the tours is as follows:
Sunday Option 1 - Martin House: $33/person
Sunday Option 2 - Antique World: $20/person
Monday Niagara Falls/New York/Canada Tour: $91/person (lunch included).

More information and Registration Forms are available at www.usaha.org. SPACE IS LIMITED!
Earlier this year, USAHA launched a redesign of its website (www.usaha.org) to incorporate the new logo for the organization as well as increased capabilities for its members.

The new look is designed to increase ease of navigation and expand the resources available online. With the growing trends of online presences, USAHA will continue to evaluate its web-based resources and information.

One of the key features of the website is members-only access. USAHA currently has capability to provide member-specific information for those logged into the website. You must be current on your dues to access the members only portions, but provides you with links to your membership profile, including a listing of your committees, the membership directory, and other useful information for members. The site is also linked to our secure payment portal, so once you’ve logged in, you can easily access registration forms and dues renewals that are tied to that existing account. While additional features are still under development, we welcome any comments or suggestions to the new format.

Your account is directly tied to your email address - if you have used the online registration previously, all you need is your email and associated password for that account. If not, you can easily create an account by following the links to “login” from the home page.

And as always, we are happy to assist with any problems or questions you may have with the website.

Another feature under development is the archival of the complete collection of the USAHA Proceedings. We recently have had them electronically scanned and are available in digital format. We are in the process of formatting for the website in a user-friendly manner. It is our goal to make the complete archive readily available for reference as a service to USAHA members and stakeholders.

See you in Buffalo!