



## Announcements

### ATTENTION!

**NAFV is planning to hold a Chapter Meeting in Washington, DC.**

*This meeting is open to all members who wish to attend.*

**Date & time are TBD.**

**We are asking for suggestions on when to hold the meeting, and what topics our members would like to discuss.**

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## U.S.-Mexico Wrap Up AI Mission, but Bans Remain in Force for Now

*Source: USAPEEC Mondayline, 03/07/2016*

Even though technical meetings between the U.S. and Mexico aimed at ending Mexico's import bans on poultry from 15 U.S. states because of avian influenza ended last month on a positive note, the bans could remain in force for a while longer, perhaps months.

For a week in February, representatives from SENASICA, Mexico's food safety, animal and plant health inspection agency, were in the U.S. for meetings as guests of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. During the visit, the Mexican veterinary delegation met with state and federal animal health officials, visited farms affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza in Minnesota, Iowa and Arkansas, and toured the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, according to USAPEEC Mexico Director Jose Luis Cruz.

The SENASICA group had full access to all technical information on the HPAI outbreaks in all affected states during their visit, Cruz said. They also were shown how industry and government responded to the outbreaks, and how control and biosecurity measures were implemented.

APHIS district personnel and industry representatives explained the outreach and training programs, re-

viewed diagnostic techniques, and went over detailed records of the outbreaks.

Also, APHIS supplied supplementary information requested by SENASICA on the U.S. HPAI event.

At the exit briefing, the Mexican delegation said it would prepare and file a report to Dr. Joaquin Delgadillo, Mexico's chief veterinary officer, and that SENASICA would review the information and issue a decision within 60 working days.

The delegation was comprised of Dr. Mauricio Gerardo Lopez Curiel, chief of the Department of International and Domestic Risk Analysis; and Dr. Julio Cesar Garcia Angeles and Dr. Efrain de Jesus Soto Ruiz of the Mexico-U.S. Exotic Animal Disease Commission.

Mexico currently has bans on poultry and eggs from the following states: Washington, Oregon, California, Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Nebraska, Indiana and Idaho.

An underlying reason for Mexico's reluctance to lift import restrictions is that SENASICA believes the U.S. has been slow to recognize Mexico as free of classical swine fever (CSF), despite the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) grant of CSF-free status to Mexico in early 2015.

## USDA Announces \$4.4 Million in Available Funding for Veterinary Loan Repayment

The USDA announced \$4.4 million in available funding to help repay veterinary school loans in return for veterinarians serving in areas lacking sufficient veterinary resources. The funding is administered by USDA's NIFA. Applications for the **Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)** for fiscal year (FY) 2016 must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 20, 2016**. For more information on if you are eligible, please contact the NAFV office.

**Federal Veterinarian (ISSN 0164-6257)**

1910 Sunderland Pl., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-1608

is published monthly except bimonthly in Nov-Dec and May-June by, and in the interest of, the National Association of Federal Veterinarians to whom it is mailed free. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. Correspondence should be addressed to:

**Executive Vice President**  
**National Association of Federal Veterinarians**  
1910 Sunderland Pl., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-1608

The annual subscription rate is \$50.00 for United States and Canada and \$70.00 for foreign mailing, payable by January 1 each year. Subscriptions are not available to those eligible for membership.

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**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN****Federal Veterinary Disease Control Assistance Provided to Uganda***By Michael Gilsdorf DVM*

As many of you might recall, I spent 33 years with APHIS/VS eradicating diseases like brucellosis and tuberculosis. I was recently asked by 'Veterinarians without Borders' (VWB) to assist Uganda in developing a livestock brucellosis control program for the Adjumani district. I traveled there the first part of March for a week and met with Dr. Tom Graham, the CEO of VWB, and with Ugandan federal veterinarians Drs. Michael Apamaku and David Okello. It is estimated that approximately 8.2% of East African ruminants are seropositive for brucellosis. In Uganda, studies estimate test-positive cattle between 4% to 26%. In the Adjumani District, health statistics indicate a monthly average of 10 patients diagnosed with brucellosis.

The challenges of lowering the prevalence of *Brucella abortus* in bovines within the Adjumani District of Uganda include the commingling of cattle throughout the district. There are no fences and herders drive cattle to wherever there is grass. There is no surveillance system for diseases. There is a lack of a district-wide animal surveillance system to epidemiologically trace the sources of infection. The animal health authorities have limited funds and regulatory personnel to conduct animal testing, advise producers, and educate the

public on the human and animal health and economic consequences of the disease. Lastly, the traditional animal management procedures perpetuate disease transmission.

I suggested we start a surveillance process by informing the herd owners about the risks of having brucellosis infected animals and offering free testing and vaccination. We also would offer a process to qualify a herd for brucellosis-free status if an owner was interested. There are many more elements to the recommendations, but these are the highlights.



Dr. Okello is the District veterinarian, and he plans to implement the livestock brucellosis control program. It will be interesting to see the progress made in the next year.

As federal veterinarians, we gain a vast amount of knowledge and experience in the positions we work. These skills are often useful after we leave government in assisting others around the world as either a consultant or volunteer. If you would like to share your experiences, please let us know.



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

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**Board of Directors**  
**National Association of Federal Veterinarians**  
**Conference Call**  
**February 15, 2016**

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- Dr. Deanna Brown, Secretary-Treasurer

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- Dr. Douglas Fulnechek\*
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**General Counsel:**

- Mr. William Hughes, Esq.

**Executive Vice President:**

- Dr. Michael Gilsdorf

**Administrative Assistant:**

- Ms. Mariana Barros

\*Not present on call

**Introduction:**

The NAFV Board of Directors (BOD) held its annual meeting on Monday February 15, 2016 via conference call. This date was chosen because it was a federal holiday, and thus most BOD members were able to attend with no conflicts.

The topics discussed were as follows:

• **Administrative Assistant Report**

Ms. Mariana Barros, Administrative Assistant for the NAFV, briefly discussed her Administrative Assistant report. For the sake of time, the only topic that was discussed in full was the effort to reach out to current veterinary students, and Deans of veterinary schools in the US and make them aware of the NAFV's free of charge student subscription to the *Federal Veterinarian*.

The BOD encouraged these efforts and agreed to discuss any additional efforts when they are presented.

• **Executive Vice President's report**

- **Membership**

At the end of 2015 NAFV had a total of 1,656 members:

- ♦825 Dues paying members
  - FSIS: 512
  - APHIS: 259
  - FDA: 4
  - Military: 33
  - DHS: 2

-ARS: 3

-CDC: 7

♦569 Associate members

♦265 Associate Honor Roll members

NAFV lost 44 Active members in 2015. NAFV Recruited 89 new members in 2015.

2015 top recruiter was Dr. Michael 'Mikhaiel' with 10 new members. 24 members actively recruited new members in 2015.

AVMA is currently calculating how many members we have that belong to the AVMA. NAFV must keep a minimum of 500 AVMA members in order to stay on their House of Delegates committee.

• **Awards**

- **Salmon Award 2015:**

The 2015 Daniel E. Salmon award recipient was Col. Dr. Mark Duffy from the Air Force.

-**NAFV Unsung Veterinary Excellence Award:**

In 2015 NAFV implemented and handed out the first Unsung Veterinary Excellence award. Dr. Gary Stevens was the first recipient.

**Action Item:** Dr. Gilsdorf encourages all BOD members to submit nominations for 2016 Salmon Award, and Unsung Veterinary Excellence Awards recipients.

• **Hosted Meetings in 2015**

(Continued on Pg. 4, "2016 NAFV BOD Minutes")

(Continued from Pg. 3, "2016 NAFV BOD Minutes")

In 2015, Dr. Gilsdorf traveled to represent the NAFV in the following conferences:

- AVMA HOD meeting
- USAHA
- Food Safety Symposium
- AAPHV joint meeting

- **Chapter Meetings in 2015**

NAFV held chapter meeting in the following locations in 2015:

- Jackson, MS
- Raleigh, NC
- Riverdale, MD
- Fort Collins, California
- Prince George, NY
- Dallas, TX
- College Station, TX
- San Antonio, TX

**Action Item:** BOD identified Chapter meetings as a priority for 2016.

- **Report on NAFV Committees**

- **Political Action Committee (PAC)**

The PAC balance at the end of 2015 was \$1,662.92. NAFV received \$0 in member PAC donations in 2015. No disbursements or donations occurred in 2015. We will place notices in the newsletter and on the web page reminding members to donate.

- **Memorial Scholarship/Loan Fund (MSLF)**

The MSLF balance at the end of 2015 was \$5,667.36. NAFV received no donations in 2015 from members and had no disbursements in 2015.

- **American Academy of Veterinary Preventative Medicine (AAVPM)**

The AAVPM balance at the end of 2015 was \$3,911.10. NAFV received no member donations in 2015. The AAVPM was active during 2015. We will place notices in the newsletter and on the web page reminding members to donate.

- **Status of NAFV Investments**

NAFV has 3 investment accounts with T. Rowe Price and 3 savings accounts with Wells Fargo Bank.

At the end of December 2015, NAFV had \$82,185.02 in its investment portfolio. NAFV transferred \$3,000.00 from the investment portfolio to the NAFV checking account to cover costs.

NAFV gained a total of \$6,458.10 in its funding reserves in 2015.

- **Report of the General Counsel**

- **2016 BOD Elections**

2016 is an election year for the NAFV BOD. Mr. Hughes & Dr. Gilsdorf encouraged all current BOD members to run for office once again. All positions on BOD are open with the exception of President.

Mr. Hughes explained that there two ways to get onto the ballot:

1. **Informal Way** – Expressing your interest to the nomination committee;
2. **By Petition** - For Board Position: 10 Signatures from members. For Executive Positions: 20 Signatures from members.

- **Budget**

The 2015 approved NAFV budget had an expected income of \$198,765. The actual income was \$182,535.43. This is a decrease in income of \$16,223.57.

There are 700 members signed up on dues withholding as of February 4, 2016 (\$163,000.00).<sup>9</sup> 23 that have paid with PayPal (\$1,248.83). 23 that have paid by check (\$5,382) (\$6,630.83 total).

NAFV spent \$3,375.15 more than it received in income during 2015. Using current membership dues and expenditure projections, NAFV should not have a deficit in 2016 because of increased membership and a reduction in the fee for the EVP.

There were still 63 members (who paid in 2015) who haven't paid their 2016 dues as of February 8, 2016. Mariana is resending out dues notices to them. If those members send in the checks, additional dues paying members still need to be recruited to balance the proposed budget.

(Note: These numbers don't include the members needed to replace those who will retire throughout 2016).

- **2016 budget**

Dr. Gilsdorf proposed one amendment for 2016: Increase Administrative Salary by \$1,200.00.

The BOD Approved the amendment.

The 2016 Budget was re-approved, and a proposed budget for 2017 was approved. (See budget sheet)

- **NAFV Priorities for 2016**

- **Workforces**

- **TMAC** - NAFV has been working with Dr. Greg Parham (Assistant Secretary of Agriculture with the USDA) and Drs. Valeria Raegan and Mark Lutschaunig to increase the opportunities for veterinarians in the federal government.

In 2016, Dr. Gilsdorf hopes to rejuvenate the federal veterinary workforce advisory council (TMAC) and continue in these efforts.

- **AVMA Depopulation Taskforce**

(Continued on Pg. 5, "2016 NAFV BOD Minutes")

(Continued from Pg. 4, "2016 NAFV BOD Minutes")

Dr. Michael Gilsdorf has joined the AVMA's de-population task force as an advisor. This report is set to come out later in 2016.

NAFV successfully fought to be on this panel and represent the voice of federal veterinarians.

**- AVMA Legislative Advisory Committee**

NAFV will continue its participation in the AVMA/LAC.

**- AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference**

In 2015, NAFV sponsored APHIS VS member from Colorado, Dr. David Hsi. NAFV plans to send another representative in 2017.

**- NAFV Coordinators**

In 2015, NAFV changed the name of the NAFV Representatives to NAFV Coordinators. In 2016, NAFV will be focusing on getting more coordina-

tors to proportionally represent each agency:

**ACTION ITEM:** NAFV needs BOD members to recruit volunteers to be NAFV coordinators with the goal of reaching the above mentioned numbers. Mariana will set up a call to discuss.

**-Recruitment of new members**

In 2015, NAFV implemented the practice of emailing each new hire in FSIS and APHIS with the information gathered from HR reports.

NAFV will continue these efforts in 2016 and hope to gain more members. NAFV will continue its efforts in trying to receive these reports in an automated fashion.

**-Webinars/Continuing Education**

In 2015, NAFV teamed up with the World Veterinary Association and created an online portal for our members to receive continuing education credits.

As part of our partnership, we agreed to add 10

(Continued on WEBSITE)

**NAFV Board of Directors Meeting  
March 5, 2016 Minutes**

As published in this issue were edited for space. To read the full minutes please visit:  
<http://nafv.org/BoardofDirectors.html>

**As the Worm Turns: Cornell study shows *Trichinella* parasites turn the host's immune system against itself**

**Source: Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine | 2/16/2016**

ITHACA -- A new study from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University shows that *Trichinella* worms recruit their hosts' immune systems to feed and shelter them within muscle tissue. Senior author Judy Appleton, Professor of Immunology, says the same may hold true in other parasitic worm infections: "The worm stimulates an immune response, then co-opts the immune response to help itself." The study was described in the December 2015 PLOS *Pathogens*.

*Trichinella* infestation can lead to trichinosis, also called trichinellosis, a disease with symptoms ranging from headaches and fever to heart and breathing problems. Severe cases may end in death. *Trichinella* larvae are commonly found in the meat of wild and domestic animals and are able to

spread when infected meat is eaten raw or undercooked.

Appleton's research focuses on white blood cells called eosinophils, which don't attack perceived invaders the way other white blood cells do. Eosinophils had long been perceived as helpful in combatting infection. Instead, they appear to help the worms survive. Earlier work from Appleton's lab showed that eosinophils block the production of nitric oxide (NO), a gas produced by the immune system that is toxic to *Trichinella*. The follow-up study in PLOS reveals that eosinophils not only prevent the NO gas attack, their presence is actually necessary for the worm to thrive.

"We found that muscle tissue is mounting a repair response, like it would against an injury. Then the eosinophils are coming in, presumably to help with the repair, but coincidentally they help the para-

site grow. We found evidence of a shift in metabolism in the muscle that would provide more glucose to the worm," says Appleton.

This insight is useful in the battle to end parasitic worm infections, which currently affect an estimated 2 billion people worldwide, by pushing the science in the right direction.

"When you vaccinate for an infectious disease, you're trying to induce a certain kind of immune response," says Appleton. "Understanding the roles these blood cells can play will help in developing effective therapeutics that use the immune system."

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## Armadillos and Leprosy

### SCWDSBRIEFS, UGA | 02/17/2016

Researchers from the National Hansen's Disease Program at Louisiana State University (LSU) and their collaborators recently published the results of a study that found armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) infected with *Mycobacterium leprae* in eight locations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. Historically, natural infections of free-ranging armadillos with *M. leprae* were reported only in Texas and Louisiana, and a large field survey conducted by SCWDS in the early 1990s had failed to find infected armadillos in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The LSU researchers also found an association between *M. leprae* strains in naturally infected armadillos and in human patients. Their study was published in December 2015 in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* ([http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/21/12/15-0501\\_article](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/21/12/15-0501_article)).

Leprosy, now known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease of humans that primarily affects the skin and nerves and is caused by the bacterium *M. leprae*. Due to the severe disfiguration that

can occur in untreated chronic infections, patients historically were considered social outcasts. Most transmission occurs via aerosols or direct contact between humans. Although Hansen's disease is mainly a concern in parts of Africa, Asia, and South America, about 200 cases are diagnosed in the United States every year. Many of these cases are associated with travel to endemic countries, but recent studies indicate that some infections were acquired in the U.S., and many were associated with exposure to infected armadillos.

The range of nine-banded armadillos once was restricted to Texas and Louisiana, however, it has expanded greatly in recent decades and armadillos now are found as far north as Illinois. They are highly susceptible to *M. leprae*, can minimize the risk of transmission of zoonotic-pathogens. (Prepared by Sarah Leyman from The Ohio State University and Michael Yabsley).

[SCWDSBRIEFS@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU](mailto:SCWDSBRIEFS@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU)

Michael Yabsley

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

## Epidemiologic and Other Analyses of Indiana HPAI/LPAI-Affected Poultry Flocks

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In mid-January, a combined outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI and LPAI) occurred in Indiana. The outbreak in commercial turkeys was first detected by an increase in mortality followed by laboratory confirmation of H7N8 HPAI. After initial efforts to control the disease, a series of epidemiologic, geospatial, genetic, and wildlife investigations was started. These studies are being conducted collaboratively with the poultry industry, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This is a preliminary report of the findings available to date to assist in understanding the introduction and disease transmission pathways. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce the risk of continued spread in this outbreak and to help in future efforts to prevent

disease incursions. The information in this report will be updated as more data are collected and analyzed.

Genetic analyses determined that all H7N8 viruses detected from this event are of North American wild bird lineage, and the HPAI and LPAI viruses are highly similar across all eight genes excluding the multi-basic amino acid insertion at the cleavage site in the HPAI virus.

An investigation of cases using an in-person administered questionnaire examined physical and management characteristics of infected premises. The initial analysis indicated some activities found to be risk factors associated with disease in the H5 2015 outbreak were not being practiced in Indiana. However, some activities practiced in Indiana were associated with disease in the 2015 outbreak. Similar information is cur-

rently being collected on non-infected farms to help further interpret the infected case data.

APHIS has begun sampling and testing of wildlife near infected premises. Initial results have not found evidence of existing virus in the samples from wild birds and mammals tested to date.

Preliminary geospatial analysis looked at county-level factors that may have contributed to the introduction of the virus into Dubois County, Indiana. The weather in Dubois County was warmer and wetter than past years, which may have contributed to the introduction and persistence of the virus. More detailed geospatial analysis is ongoing.

APHIS will continue to investigate how the HPAI/LPAI virus was introduced and spread and will provide updated results regularly.

March 4, 2016

## Siluriformes: Final Rule Became Effective, Foreign Country Establishment Lists Posted & FAQs Posted

On Dec. 2, 2015, FSIS published a final rule establishing an inspection program for fish under the order Siluriformes, including catfish. In the final rule, FSIS required foreign countries to submit written documentation identifying a list of establishments (with the establishment name and number) that currently export and will continue to export Siluriformes fish and fish products to the U.S. These countries have to demonstrate that they have laws or other legal measures in place that provide authority to regulate the growing and processing of fish for human food and to assure compliance with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) regulatory requirements.

To assist importers and brokers, FSIS has published the list of foreign countries and establishments currently eligible to export Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States on its web site. FSIS will update the list as additional information from foreign countries is received.

Starting April 15, 2016, FSIS will begin targeting selected shipments of imported Siluriformes fish and fish products for re-inspection on at least a quarterly basis. FSIS chose to delay reinspection of these products to account for products in transit (e.g., those on boats crossing an ocean). From March 1, 2016, the effective date of the final rule, until April 14, 2016, the FDA will continue to have jurisdiction over imported Siluriformes fish and fish products. After April 15, 2016, FSIS will have sole jurisdiction over these products.

FSIS will notify the importer of record or broker that the Agency has selected a shipment for re-inspection. All selected shipments must present to FSIS for reinspection at an official import inspection establishment of their choice. The official import inspection establishment must have a Grant of Inspection approved for Siluriformes fish. By April 15, 2016, FSIS will publish on its web site a list of official import inspection establishments have this grant.

During the transitional period that runs from the effective date until Sept. 1, 2017, FSIS will conduct inspection during all hours of operation at establishments that slaughter Siluriformes and on a quarterly basis at establishments that only process the fish. Also during this transitional period, FSIS will focus on ensuring that adulterated product does not enter commerce. It will also ensure that product misbranded for certain reasons (like an incorrect product name or overdeclared net weight is on the label) does not enter commerce. At the end of the transitional period, FSIS will enforce all regulations.

The list of foreign countries, establishments, the final rule, and additional information on the mandatory inspection of Siluriformes fish and fish products is available on the FSIS web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/siluriformes>.

FSIS also has a Frequently Asked Questions page on various topics related to Siluriformes fish, including catfish. For more information, visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/inspection/siluriformes/faq-siluriformes>.

## Possible Airborne Person-to-Person Transmission of *Mycobacterium bovis* — Nebraska 2014–2015

### Summary

#### What is already known about this topic?

*Mycobacterium bovis*, a zoonotic pathogen of cattle, causes tuberculosis in persons who consume unpasteurized contaminated dairy products. Airborne person-to-person transmission has been suspected but is difficult to confirm.

#### What is added by this report?

A large contact investigation around two patients with *M. bovis* pulmonary tuberculosis and the findings from molecular epidemiology strengthen the evidence for person-to-person transmission of *M. bovis* infection.

#### What are the implications for public health practice?

The persistence of *M. bovis* in cattle internationally and the failure to pasteurize dairy products in many locations means that further infections in humans should be anticipated. Persons with *M. bovis* infections should be asked about foodborne exposures. Contact investigations for *M. bovis* disease should be conducted using the same methods as for *M. tuberculosis* disease.

[FULL REPORT](#)

Still don't have your Federal Employee  
Professional Liability Insurance in place?

NAFV encourages you to obtain professional liability insurance. AVMA insurance DOES NOT cover personnel actions resulting from your federal employment. If you do not have professional liability insurance in place, NAFV can and will advise you, but cannot be your legal representative or provide indemnity protection if you are held personally liable in a civil suit.

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Call or visit FEDS online today as coverage must be in place prior to knowledge of an allegation, investigation, claim or suit or coverage will not apply!

### Call for NAFV Board of Directors Nominations

*This is an election year for NAFV Executive Officers and Board of Directors- which includes President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, FSIS Board Directors (there are 3), APHIS Board Directors (there are 2), and one Board Director whom represents all other federal agencies.*

This is a request for nominations. There are two ways members can be nominated for NAFV officer positions. One is by contacting the NAFV office to **request** your name be considered by the nominating committee and the position you wish to fill. If candidates for positions have not been submitted by petition or volunteered, the nominating committee may also be contacting members to determine if they are interested in being nominated.

The President-Elect will become the president upon completion of the 2 year term as president-elect and will serve as a member of the board of directors, and perform other duties appropriate to the office as directed by the president.

The Secretary-Treasurer assists the executive vice president in the development of the budget and in the record keeping of the financial records of the association, and assists in developing and presenting financial reports to the board or executive committee. The secretary-treasurer also approves all reimbursements to the EVP and keeps the minutes of board and executive committee meetings and submits them as a report.

The Board of Directors determines the actions and policies of the association by majority vote at meetings or by unanimous vote at other times. The Board of Directors is the ultimate governing body of the association.

Biographical statement of the candidates and voting ballots will be sent out in August this year and will be included in the newsletter. The ballots will be on the back page and can be torn out and mailed in to the NAFV office. In addition, the Board has approved voting by personal email. Additional information on this electronic voting process will be included in future newsletters and on the **www.NAFV.org** web site.

The second way to be nominated is by **petition** - a member may be nominated for president-elect or secretary-treasurer by petition of at least twenty (20) active members submitted by July 1, 2016. Nomination by petition guarantees a slot on the ballot.



## Requesting a Recommendation

### *By Dr. Allan Hogue*

A strong recommendation probably has greater influence on promotion in federal service than any other single factor. Experienced supervisors know that former colleagues or supervisors are an essential source of information about your ability to lead or facilitate teams, interact with coworkers, and get along with people in general.

The merit promotion process in the federal government generally includes references and/or letters of recommendation. The application may ask for the name of your reference. Generally, the selecting official will call your reference after they receive the certificate (or cert) listing the names of the most qualified applicants. Alternatively, the application or the selecting official may ask for a letter of recommendation. In either case the selecting official will consider the opinion of your reference (or advocate) in making his or her final decision.

These suggestions will help you obtain a strong recommendation whether your advocate is contacted by phone or they provide a letter:

- Chose your advocate well
- Ask for a recommendation from someone who knows your skills and abilities well, and from someone you are certain will provide strong support.
- Plan ahead
- Provide your advocate with information about the job you are seeking. Be prepared to highlight the reasons for your interest as well as your skills and qualifications for the position.
- Provide your advocate with your resume and other relevant information about your work

experience and qualifications. They may know a portion, but they probably don't know all of your relevant experience.

- Make it easy for your advocate, particularly if they are writing a letter on your behalf. They have other priorities for their time so consider providing an electronic copy of your outstanding qualifications. Don't write the letter for them but give them text that makes it easy to highlight your best qualifications.
- Have a name and address in hand when you make the request. Let them know the name of the person who will contact them by phone if you know it. A stamped, addressed envelope is a nice gesture if your advocate is writing a letter.
- Make the request
- Make sure that you and your advocate both have time available for a conversation and some privacy to speak openly. Talk about the position and the reasons for your interest. Explain why you are well qualified. Ask if they have questions. Remind them of the deadline for submitting their recommendation.
- Follow-up

Check-in with your advocate before the deadline. Send a thank you whether or not you landed the position; you may want their support for the next one.

Your preparations and actions will determine the strength of your recommendation. Don't view the process as something you have no control over and don't underestimate the importance of a strong recommendation.

### **Call for NAFV Board of Directors Nominations (cont.)**

The terms of office are for two years beginning **January 1, 2017**. If you are interested in advancing your career, this would be a great way to gain leadership experience. The Board will meet in-person on in the spring of 2017 in Washington, DC and by conference call in 2018. Additional Board activities will be handled by conference calls when needed.

With any questions on BOD nominations, please contact Dr. Mike Gilsdorf at [mgilsdorf@nafv.org](mailto:mgilsdorf@nafv.org).

***“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”***

**-Thomas A. Edison**

## The AVMA: Committed to protecting, promoting and advancing federal veterinarians

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) represents more than 88,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia and uniformed services. We are proud to recognize the NAFV as our first affiliate veterinary association, and that our long relationship dates back almost 100 years. Together, we are giving federal veterinarians the tools you need to make a positive difference in animals' and people's lives.

The AVMA recognizes your critical role as federal veterinarians in our profession and is taking several steps to protect, promote and advance your needs:

- The NAFV is represented in our **House of Delegates**, which establishes policy and provides direction for matters relating to veterinary medicine.
- We lobby federal agencies for funding for important initiatives that benefit federal veterinarians.
- We lobby Congress for funding and legislation that benefit federal veterinarians and the programs they administer.
- We have been instrumental in convincing Congress to establish and continue funding the **Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**, which places veterinarians in underserved communities in exchange for loan repayment. We are actively seeking to secure additional funding for the VMLRP, as well as the **Veterinary Services Grant Program**, which provides competitive grants to veterinarians who practice in shortage situations.
- Our collaboration with the FDA helped ensure veterinary perspectives were heard by the agency as it developed the **Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)** rule. In addition, we have worked with the FDA and stakeholder groups to develop education and outreach, including Web content and sessions at the AVMA Convention. On behalf of our members, the AVMA monitors, reviews and responds to proposals made by federal regulatory agencies and published within the **Federal Register** that impact the profession and the practice of veterinary medicine.
- The AVMA signed a formal **memorandum of understanding** with the NAFV and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine to promote veterinary careers in public service and corporate practice. The partnership seeks to educate Congress and human resource managers within the federal government on a wide variety of job opportunities that veterinarians are qualified to fill, and to boost career-building programs that seek to recruit, train and retain the next-generation workforce.
- We are advocating for the passage of the **Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act**, the federal bill to end the cruel practice of horse soring. The bill, which has overwhelming, bipartisan support in Congress, strengthens penalties for violations and improves USDA enforcement.
- We are an advisory participant in the federal veterinary workforce's **Talent Management Advisory Council**, an interagency group that is developing a strategic interagency workforce plan to obtain a government wide understanding of the current status and future needs of the federal veterinary workforce.
- Last year, we launched an **Advisory Panel Pilot Program** designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our volunteer leadership; increase member value and engagement by offering more opportunities for micro-volunteerism; and provide a better overall volunteer experience. The program consists of two advisory panels and two stakeholder forums, including a Governmental Forum that provides governmental agencies represented on the AVMA House of Delegates Advisory Panel another direct means of communicating with our leadership.
- Federal veterinarians serve as invited guests on our **councils and committees** that address issues most important to the profession. For example, Dr. John Sanders, a federal veterinarian, manages the Professional Development track of CE on our Convention Education Program Committee, which identifies and programs high quality educational opportunities at the **AVMA Convention**. In addition, a representative from the USDA Animal Care program sits on our **Animal Welfare Committee**, and works with that committee on a range of issues related to the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.
- We are working with the support of the

*(Continued on Pg. 11, "AVMA Committed...")*

(Continued from Pg. 10, "AVMA Committed...")

USDA and NAFV on our newly-convened **Panel on Depopulation**, which is developing guidance for techniques appropriate for mass depopulation.

- The AVMA has assisted with content and presentation of **APHIS Approved Supplemental Training modules** associated with the National Veterinary Accreditation Program.
- Our **Veterinary Career Center** is a well-known professional career resource for veterinarians and veterinary professionals. It provides a platform for finding jobs and posting job openings, as well as resources to assist in

the job search process. It is being used by the FSIS.

Many of these initiatives were made possible through ongoing work with you to research, plan and execute successful strategies, and our support for your efforts to develop effective regulations to protect the health and well-being of animals and people. The AVMA hopes to continue collaborating with the NAFV in addressing the issues facing veterinary medicine now and into the future. Together, we are working to protect, promote and advance this honorable profession and making it stronger for both today and tomorrow.

## FDA Announces Final Rule on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

**March 17, 2016**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today issued a rule finalizing three previously-issued interim final rules designed to further reduce the potential risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), sometimes referred to as "mad cow disease," in human food.

The final rule provides definitions for prohibited cattle materials and prohibits their use in human food, dietary supplements, and cosmetics, to address the potential risk of BSE. These materials include:

- Specified risk materials (SRMs): brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dor-

sal root ganglia (DRG) of cattle 30 months of age and older, and the tonsils and distal ileum of the small intestine from all cattle.

- The small intestine from all cattle unless the distal ileum has been properly removed,
- Material from nonambulatory disabled cattle,
- Material from cattle not inspected and passed, or mechanically separated (MS) (Beef).

The rule additionally confirms that milk and milk products, hides and hide-derived products, tallow that contains no more than 0.15 percent insoluble impurities, and tallow derivatives are not prohibited cattle materials. The FDA also finalized the process for designating a country as not subject to BSE-related restrictions applicable to FDA regulated human food and cosmetics.

Finally, the rule provides a definition of gelatin and clarifies that gelatin is not considered a prohibited cattle material if it is manufactured using the customary industry processes specified. Gelatin was never considered a prohibited cattle material, but FDA had never specifically defined gelatin in past IFRs.

The FDA is taking this action to minimize human exposure to certain cattle material that could potentially contain the BSE agent. It is important to note that the U.S. has long had measures in place to prevent the introduction and spread of BSE, including those affirmed in this rule; therefore the risk of human exposure to the BSE agent from FDA-regulated human food and cosmetics is negligible.

This rule finalizes three interim rules from [2004](#), [2005](#), and [2008](#).

## Nominations for NAFV Unsung Veterinary Excellence Award are still being accepted!

The Unsung Veterinary Excellence Award recognizes federal veterinarians who have positively influenced a program or organization with a positive attitude, a willingness to help in whatever capacity necessary, and a commitment to excellence. All nomination forms can be found at [www.nafv.org](http://www.nafv.org), and can be sent to Dr. Michael Gilsdorf at [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org).

[Award Description](#) | [Nomination Form](#)

# Federal Veterinarians Protect and Improve Public and Animal Health and Welfare

## **VETERINARY HAPPENINGS**

Notify NAFV of Promotions, Reassignments, Transfers, Awards, Retirements, etc. for members not listed in the "Veterinary Happenings" column so they may be included in a future issue. The following information was received by NAFV.

### **USDA FSIS Members**

**Dr. Claire Hotvet**, Des Moines, IA, Promotion, 02/21/2016

### **USDA APHIS Members**

- Dr. Bob Bokma**, Riverdale, MD, Retirement, 01/03/2016
- Dr. Benjamin Carson**, Quail, TX, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Osmundo Castilla**, Riverdale, MD, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Asghar Chaudhry**, Bordentown, NJ, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Mary Evans**, Ames, IA, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Arnoldo Gutierrez**, Aspermont, TX, Retirement, 10/31/2015
- Dr. Allan Hogue**, Riverdale, MD, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Gary Ross**, Riverdale, MD, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Kristin Schmitz**, Riverdale, MD, Retirement, 12/31/2015
- Dr. Mary Kate Anderson**, Albany, NY, Promotion, 03/06/2016
- Dr. Jeffrey Baker**, West fork, AR, Promotion, 03/06/2016
- Dr. Jeffrey Lee**, Monrovia, CA, Promotion, 02/07/2016
- Dr. John Lopinto**, Massapequa, NY, Promotion, 02/07/2016
- Dr. Katherine Marshall**, Fort Collins, CO, Promotion, 02/03/2016
- Dr. Adriana Roman-Muniz**, Riverdale, MD, Promotion, 02/21/2016

### **Welcome New Members**

- Dr. David Dunphy**, GS-12, ISU '87, Glenwood Springs, CO
- Dr. Randall Daniels**, GS-12, TEX '82, Colorado Springs, CO
- Dr. Michael Christensen**, GS-13, KSU '84, Waterloo, NE
- Dr. Lauren Harris**, GS-12, CSU '09, Franklin, MA
- Dr. Katherine Stawzel**, GS-12, CA '10, Riverview, FL
- Dr. Nicole Chevalier**, LTC, CSU '98, Annandale, VA

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