



Announcements

Call for AVMA VLC Program Proposals!

The AVMA is accepting program proposals for presentation at its 2018 Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC) in Chicago, Illinois on January 4-6, 2018.

The AVMA's VLC offers workshops designed to enhance current and established leaders in the veterinary medical field. This is a significant opportunity to share your knowledge with the veterinary leadership community.

More information:
<http://bit.ly/2v7GE3m>

► Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| HOW IS NAFV A COMMUNITY? | Pgs. 2 & 3 |
| AVMA-HOD Wrap Up! | Pgs. 3 & 4 |
| FSIS Disposition Instructions for Poultry | Pg. 6 |
| New APHIS Response Plan | Pg. 7 |
| FMD Vaccine Production in US | Pg. 9 |
| Sec. Perdue on Brazilian Beef Ban | Pg. 11 |

USDA Detects a Case of Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in Alabama

Source: APHIS | 07/18/2017

Washington, D.C., July 18, 2017 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an atypical case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a neurologic disease of cattle, in an eleven-year old cow in Alabama. This animal never entered slaughter channels and at no time presented a risk to the food supply, or to human health in the United States.

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) have determined that this cow was positive for atypical (L-type) BSE. The animal was showing clinical signs and was found through routine surveillance at an Alabama livestock market. APHIS and Alabama veterinary officials are gathering more information on the case.

BSE is not contagious and exists in two types - classical and atypical. Classical BSE is the form that occurred primarily in the United Kingdom, beginning in the late 1980's, and it has been linked to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in people. The primary source of infection for classical BSE is feed contaminated with the infectious prion agent, such as meat-and-bone meal containing protein derived from rendered infected cattle. Regulations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have prohibited the inclusion of mammalian protein in feed for cattle and other ruminants since 1997 and have also prohibited high risk tissue materials in all animal feed since 2009.

Atypical BSE is different, and it generally occurs in older cattle, usual-

ly 8 years of age or greater. It seems to arise rarely and spontaneously in all cattle populations.

This is the nation's 5th detection of BSE. Of the four previous U.S. cases, the first was a case of classical BSE that was imported from Canada; the rest have been atypical (H- or L-type) BSE.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has recognized the United States as negligible risk for BSE. As noted in the OIE guidelines for determining this status, atypical BSE cases do not impact official BSE risk status recognition as this form of the disease is believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate. Therefore, this finding of an atypical case will not change the negligible risk status of the United States, and should not lead to any trade issues.

The United States has a longstanding system of interlocking safeguards against BSE that protects public and animal health in the United States, the most important of which is the removal of specified risk materials - or the parts of an animal that would contain BSE should an animal have the disease - from all animals presented for slaughter. The second safeguard is a strong feed ban that protects cattle from the disease. Another important component of our system - which led to this detection - is our ongoing BSE surveillance program that allows USDA to detect the disease if it exists at very low levels in the U.S. cattle population.

Original Article: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2017/sa-07/bse-alabama

REMINDER: If recently retired, please contact Ms. Mariana Barros at mbarros@nafv.org.

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.

Any non-uniformed veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member. Dues are \$234.00 annually, payable annually, semiannually, or by federal payroll deductions (eligibility for payroll deduction is limited to USDA veterinarians—of \$9.00 authorized by signing USDA Form AD 1054 (FSIS) or SF 1187 (APHIS)). Uniformed veterinarians dues are \$150.00 annually. Active duty uniformed veterinarians—please contact the NAFV office.

Associate membership may be granted to active members when they retire from federal service. Associate members pay no dues. Associate mailed subscriptions are \$25.00 per year.

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians is a non-profit corporation and the purposes for which it is formed are to promote the veterinary profession, to improve the professional efficiency and material interests of the members, to acquaint the public with the activities of veterinarians in the federal service, and to cooperate with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the United States Animal Health Association and other similar groups with common interests.

Editor: William James, DVM, MPH

wjames@nafv.org

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Federal Veterinarian

1910 Sunderland Pl., N.W.

Washington, DC 20036-1608

Tel: (202) 223-4878 | Fax: (202) 842-4360

Email: nafv@nafv.org | Website: www.nafv.org

NAFV Board of Directors

President: Dr. Larry Davis

President-Elect: Dr. Barb Porter-Spalding

Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Deanna Brown

Exec Vice President: Dr. John L. Shaw

General Counsel: William G. Hughes, Esq.

P.O. Box 340

Bozman, Maryland 21612

Tel: (410) 745-0045

EVP Column: John L. Shaw, DVM

HOW IS NAFV A COMMUNITY?

NAFV Members,

I found this article last week, and have been thinking about NAFV in the context of “community”. The article is the hyperlink below, and my thoughts follow.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2017/07/what-does-community-mean/532518/>

This article above impressed me with both the challenges for NAFV as a community in our modern world, as well as the solutions this same world offers NAFV. The question for me is how can we make NAFV a healthy community?

It is well documented and frequently commented on, that in the US, we have seen an erosion of societies, fraternal and women’s orders and clubs, US unions, and associations in general. This tendency also seems to move us away from the art of collaboration.

Representing an organization, which is a community of us, I sometimes feel as though we are swimming against a current which for some time has been moving us away from common action – and toward individual struggle.

What does this have to do with the concept of community? NAFV exists not because we were born into it. NAFV is not a physical place or a single workplace or a company town, that in the past served as the founding pillar of the concept of community; but rather as individuals, we chose to be members of NAFV - a virtual community. The Association is one of the components, which along with other individual choices, collectively make up our individual identities. There is an irony in that by choosing to be part of an association, a community, we are exercising our individuality. We join the NAFV community to become em-

powered, including politically empowered.

The article states: “*Friends trump faceless organizations. Familiarity trumps expertise*”. Here at NAFV, we strive to organize your representation in DC and to develop the expertise to do that; however, we hope to cultivate your familiarity with the Association, put a face on the staff here, and to be friends to you all. In other words, we want to make NAFV a community, in the modern sense of the word.

What are the issues we are focused on at NAFV? Professional excellence, standing, improvement, respect, public recognition, among other issues. The article states that: “*You could also argue that the issues are entirely about identity, and vice versa*”. That is to say, that identity (membership in NAFV) comes first, and the issues follow from that; on the other hand, it may be said that the issues come first, and identity (membership) follows that. These issues speak to our common identity.

NAFV is a collaborative, negotiating, solution-seeking organization which offers a unified voice and local DC point of contact for negotiating and compromising on behalf of our members. This is our common voice and our joint efforts.

NAFV serves the need of our vast network of member Federal Veterinarians when seeking to improve their careers and work life. It also offers a force for improving the very Agencies for which Federal Veterinarians work. These are our shared values.

Communities are based on social capital. Social capital is a term used in the article, and means trust among individuals. It is argued in

(Continued on Pg. 3, “EVP Column”)

(Continued from Pg. 2, "EVP Column")

other circles, that this is essential to many things: a functioning economy, a functioning political system, functioning organizations. In the past, as well as certain current situations, it is this very lack of social capital between employee and agency that makes NAFV both beneficial and necessary for members. NAFV must secure the necessary social capital among our community members to effectively represent that community. Likewise, we must build social capital with the agencies, to function as a fair broker of member issues.

In the face of the challenges enumerated here in the article, how do we make a community? The article proposes that we are released from the idea of community as a physical place. We can now construct "community" in the virtual world among wide-

ly dispersed individuals with common interests. This should position NAFV in a good place, so long as we use the modern tools at our disposal, of the NAFV newsletter, and the internet world in general terms (also, the old fashion telephone is no slacker for communication). We are no longer limited to composing a bowling team from players which live within driving distance from one another.

The key word above, however, is "construct" – and this implies a level of shared burden for community communication and involvement. We must all put forth the effort to renew our social capital, restate our common values, gird ourselves for common action, and we must treat NAFV in light of the original definition of "community" as stated in the article - an organization of "joint ownership".

NAFV/AVMA Delegates Tackle Timely Issues in Veterinary Medicine

by Michael J. Gilsdorf, DVM

Drs. Larry Davis, current President of the NAFV, and Michael Gilsdorf, former EVP of NAFV, attended the AVMA House of Delegates meeting on July 20-21, 2017 in Indianapolis, IN. Topics were covered from federal veterinary workforce issues to marijuana therapies for pets, telehealth, the opioid epidemic, and the use of service and assistance animals; subsequent discussions were held and actions were taken at the meeting.

Federal Veterinary Workforce Issues

NAFV submitted two resolutions requesting AVMA support for federal veterinary workforce recruiting and retention issues. Both were unanimously approved by the AVMA delegates.

The first resolution passed stated, "resolved, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) supports the recruitment and retention of veterinarians in the Federal Government to build a veterinary emergency response surge capacity. Further, the AVMA supports providing veterinary specialty and board certification pay for federal veterinarians, as well as recruitment and retention incentives to address this need."

The second NAFV resolution stated, "resolved that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) support the USDA FSIS Public Health Veterinary workforce hiring efforts by recommending that FSIS implement the three actions below to resolve the recruiting and retention issues when hiring of veterinarians in FSIS:

1. All slaughter plants must be under the direct supervision of a Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV); Federal veterinarians, as animal and public health professionals, are uniquely

equipped to lead the inspection and food safety processes necessary to protect Americans' food source;

2. *Remuneration and incentives of SPHV's must be immediately improved to be commensurate with their extensive education and expertise and to be competitive with the private sector;*
3. *Administrative time and support for annual professional continuing education and training is essential to retaining SPHV's."*

NAFV has been working towards resolving these veterinary workforce issues for several years. It wasn't until FSIS started placing lay inspectors into vacant veterinary positions that NAFV members decided to start working outside the agency to gather support to help FSIS permanently resolve the chronic Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV) vacancy issues.

Governments around the world know that veterinarians are vital to the effective inspection of meat and poultry. No other profession has the education and expertise to serve at this intersection of animal health and public health. The USDA also recognized this and in 2016 declared its veterinary positions as mission critical and in times of emergencies they are considered essential positions as well.

It is critical to the FSIS mission and goals that its veterinary workforce is well staffed. Current FSIS Public Health Veterinary vacancy rates are at 12%. FSIS acknowledges this vacancy level makes it difficult for remaining veterinarians to perform all the necessary functions required of PHVs and maintaining food safety. That is why these resolutions and the

(Continued on Pg. 4, "AVMA HOD")

(Continued from Pg. 3, "AVMA HOD")

efforts to resolve these veterinary shortages are so important.

Additional Topics Discussed:

Marijuana therapies- Currently it is illegal to use cannabis as it applies to veterinary practitioners. The HOD recommended that the AVMA investigate working with other research organizations and medical stakeholders to attempt to reclassify cannabis from a Schedule 1 drug to a Schedule 2 drug to facilitate research opportunities for veterinary uses.

Telehealth- Delegates approved a new AVMA Policy on Telemedicine and a revised Model Veterinary Practice Act to help begin to address advances in technology that are leading to more people seeking remote delivery of health information and education for themselves and for their animals. The AVMA believes that veterinary telemedicine should only be conducted within an existing Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR), with the exception for advice given in an emergency until that patient can be seen by a veterinarian.

Bylaws amendments and resolutions

The HOD approved the following during its regular meeting session:

- Bylaws Amendment 2: Student Chapters of the AVMA
- Bylaws Amendment 3: Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations
- Resolution 4: Therapeutic Use of Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine
- Resolution 6: The Importance of Federal Veterinarians in Emergency Response
- Resolution 7: The Importance of Federal Veterinarians in Food Safety (Also coming out of the VIF was a recommendation that the AVMA include information about careers in public veterinary practice, specifically the federal government and the Food Safety and Inspection Service, when making presentations to veterinary students and veterinarians in other career stages.)
- Resolution 8: Handling of Companion Animal Remains
- Resolution 9: Revised Policy on End-of-Life Care

Elections

Dr. Misha Robyn from CDC was sponsored by NAFV and was elected to the council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine.

Utah Judge Strikes Down "ag-gag" Law as Violation of Free Speech

by Chris Scott | 7/10/2017

A federal judge in Utah ruled that a state law barring unauthorized filming of agricultural operations violates free-speech rights, marking a victory for animal rights groups.

U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby issued a 31-page ruling that rejected the defendants' arguments that free-speech rights are not guaranteed when people are on private property (like ani-

mal processing plants) and the law protects the safety of animals and workers. The ruling noted that the agricultural industry is vital to the U.S. economy but the First Amendment rights of individuals must be protected.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Amy Meyer – who was charged with violating the Utah law in 2013 – challenged the 2012 agricultural operation

interference law by suing Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and Utah Atty. Gen. Sean Reyes.

The plaintiffs predicted the ruling could lead to the end of similar laws in other states, although Utah officials are considering their options in terms of responding to the ruling, according to a report in the Salt Lake City Tribune.

*This article has been re-printed with permission by MeatingPlace editors.

Original Article: <http://www.meatingplace.com/Industry/News/Details/74279>

FSIS to Implement PHR Update for Scheduling PHREs

Source: FSIS | 06/30/2017

FSIS uses a number of decision criteria described in Directive 5100.4 to prioritize establishments for Public Health Risk Evaluations (PHREs). At the meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) in January 2013, FSIS presented its plans to implement an FSA scheduling criterion called Public Health Regulations (PHRs). In June 2013, FSIS implemented the PHR criterion. Periodic re-analysis of the PHRs is one of the recommendations from the 2013 NACMPI re-

port. This year, FSIS has analyzed the most current data and is revising the list of PHRs as well as the cut-points used. FSIS posted on its website the FY18 list of PHRs and their corresponding cut-points. The Agency will implement this updated set of PHRs at the start of FY18. The PHRs will be used by FSIS to inform inspection personnel when non-compliance with this set of regulations exceeds the lower cut-point and also to prioritize PHREs when the higher cutpoint is exceeded.

Directive: <http://bit.ly/2uGUPdp>



Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM)



The University of California, Davis welcomes applications for the Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) degree program. The MPVM is a 1-2 year graduate professional Master's degree for veterinarians. Since 1967, this pioneering program's more than 900 graduates have excelled worldwide in leadership, academic, and research positions with universities, private industry, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, and governments.

We offer core courses in epidemiology concepts, study design, research methods, leadership, ecosystem health, and infectious disease epidemiology as well as biostatistics. Electives allow students to explore zoonotic disease, food safety, diagnostic test evaluation, spatial analysis, mathematical modeling, disease ecology, and many more courses throughout the university. Coursework in 'One Health' incorporates public health and conservation at the interface of humans and animals. In addition to didactic instruction, students write a thesis on research they undertake. We support our extensive course offerings and student research with a large, diverse, vibrant faculty including recent hires in epidemiology, wildlife, food animals, urban agriculture, and poultry health, and a wealth of adjunct contributors from state and federal management agencies and organizations.

Instruction begins in early August. Requirements for entry include a minimum 3.0 GPA, and TOEFL score of 85 or higher for non-English speakers. The application deadline for the 2016-17 academic year is January 15th 2016.

Please send inquiries to Graduate Group Coordinator Ms. Tami Ali (tali@ucdavis.edu; 530-752-2657) or Program Chair Dr. Ashley Hill (aehill@ucdavis.edu).

Visit our website at <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/mpvm/>

Public Law No: 115-43 (06/30/2017) Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to carry out a program to coordinate DHS efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose a high risk to homeland security.

Such program shall:

- provide oversight and management of DHS's responsibilities pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 - Defense of United States Agriculture and Food;
- provide oversight and integration of DHS activities related to veterinary public health, food defense, and agricultural security;
- lead DHS policy initiatives related to food, animal, and agricultural incidents and to overall domestic preparedness for, and collective response to, agricultural terrorism;
- coordinate with other DHS components on activities related to food and agriculture security and screening procedures for domestic and imported products; and
- coordinate with appropriate federal departments and agencies.

FULL TEXT: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1238/text>

Adoption of the First OIE Global Strategy on Animal Welfare

Paris, 24 May 2017 – OIE Members adopted the first global strategy on animal welfare. Primarily endorsed at the [4th OIE Global Conference on Animal welfare](#) (Guadalajara, Mexico, December 2016), it aims to achieve “A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.”

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Babesiosis Surveillance - Wisconsin, 2001–2015

Source: [CDC](#) | 07/07/2017

Authors: *Elizabeth Stein, MD; Lina I Elbadawi, MD; James Kazmierczak, DVM; Jeffrey P. Davis, MD*

Summary

What is already known about this topic?

Babesiosis is an emerging tickborne disease endemic to the northeastern United States and the upper Midwest. Many infected persons are asymptomatic but the disease can be life-threatening, especially among older and immunocompromised persons. Prompt diagnosis and treatment in patients with severe infection can prevent serious complications and death.

What is added by this report?

Analysis of Wisconsin babesiosis surveillance data during 2001–2015 indicates expansion of the geographic range and increased incidence. Routine use of polymerase chain reaction testing and automatic electronic laboratory reporting likely contributed to the increased reported incidence of confirmed babesiosis in Wisconsin; however, evidence of blacklegged tick expansion suggests an actual increase in infection rates.

What are the implications for public health practice?

Babesiosis cases in Wisconsin are increasing in number and geographic range. These trends might be occurring in other states with endemic disease, similar suburbanization and forest fragmentation patterns, and warming average temperatures. Accurate surveillance in states where babesiosis is endemic is necessary to estimate the increasing burden of babesiosis and other tickborne diseases and develop appropriate public health interventions for prevention and practice.

Original Article: <http://bit.ly/2u1Jxlf>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE 35 - 17 7/5/17

DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS FOR “WOODY BREAST” AND “WHITE STRIPING” POULTRY CONDITIONS

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides disposition information for conditions occurring in the breast muscles of broiler chickens referred to as “Woody Breast or “White Striping.” Upon issuance of this notice, Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs), Inspectors-in-Charge (IICs), Front Line Supervisors (FLSs), and Supervisory Consumer Safety Inspectors (SCSIs) as appropriate are to correlate with inspection program personnel (IPP) on how to identify and verify that poultry establishments are removing trimmable inflammatory tissues that may be associated with these conditions.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Signs of inflammation that may accompany “Woody Breast” and “White Striping” muscle abnormalities can feature:

1. Swollen breast tissues;
2. Scattered, small, pinpoint blood spots or patches (hemorrhages) of varying severity on surface of muscles, especially at the top or shoulder end of the breast fillet;
3. Thick, gelatinous, often blood-stained fluid and presence of deteriorated muscle tissue; and
4. One or both sides of the breast may be affected.

B. Inflammatory tissues are adulterated since they are unwholesome and unfit for human food thus establishments are required to remove them by trimming, as required for other trim defects. Breast muscle changes that do not exhibit active inflammatory signs, for example “White Striping” only, are considered a quality issue and do not necessarily require removal by trimming.

NAFV recommends FEDS Professional Liability Insurance

**Members Save \$10!
Enter Discount Code:
NAFV**

NAFV Wants You to Protect Yourself.

Do you know personnel actions in federal employment are not covered by AVMA insurance?

Do you know that claims resulting in investigations can be made against you by anyone - plant workers, special interest groups, politically motivated elected officials, members of the public, or managers, co-workers or subordinates?

Do you know the FEDS policy has paid attorneys for numerous claims with some exceeding costs of \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000 and more than \$100,000 just over the past two years to defend federal veterinarians?

Do you know that FEDS Protection also provides an attorney to defend you in a state veterinary board investigation and proceeding arising out of the performance of your federal job duties.



Enrollment takes just 5 minutes!
Call 866.955.FEDS or
ENROLL ONLINE NOW

APHIS ANNOUNCES EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Source: APHIS | 07/14/2017

WASHINGTON, July 14, 2017—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is making the Emerging Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan available today. The plan outlines a strategy to detect and respond to emerging animal diseases and define the processes that APHIS will use to identify, evaluate, and respond to emerging diseases in animal populations.

Emerging disease events may negatively affect animal health, public health, and trade. Examples of emerging diseases in the U.S. in the past 20 years include porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, infectious salmon anemia, West Nile virus, and more recently porcine epidemic diarrhea virus. APHIS developed the framework for this plan in 2014, then shared an initial draft of the plan for input with Federal and State agencies, American Association of Veteri-

nary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), livestock groups, and individuals. Their feedback is included in the current plan. This is a living document, which may be updated as infrastructure or policies change.

The plan provides the VS strategic direction to detect and respond to emerging animal diseases and outlines the processes VS uses to identify, evaluate, and respond to emerging diseases in animal populations. Rather than providing a single process to fit all emerging diseases, the VS plan outlines roles and responsibilities across VS business units for evaluating animal health information and determining response options. The plan also describes the need for communication and collaboration between VS, State Animal Health Officials, and animal industry representatives and stakeholders to effectively detect and respond to emerging animal diseases.

When preparing and responding to emerging diseases, we must:

1. Learn what diseases outside the U.S. could cause animal or public health concerns or impact trade and prepare for them.
2. Detect, identify, and characterize disease events;
3. Communicate with stakeholders and the public;
4. Respond quickly to minimize the impact of disease events.

By working together, we can ensure a timely and appropriate response, and reduce the impact of an emerging disease on producers and the public, which in turn will help farmers and ranchers be successful and feed the world. You can view the response plan [here](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/emerging-dis-framework-plan.pdf).

Link to response plan:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/emerging-dis-framework-plan.pdf

**Interested in holding an
NAFV Chapter meeting?**

Contact mbarros@nafv.org
to coordinate a meeting!

Congress Hails FSIS for Blocking 272 Tons of Bad Foreign Catfish

by Dan Flynn | *FoodSafety News* | 07/05/2017

The July 3 publication of the Federal Register made it official. Importers and brokers of catfish were put on notice about USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's plans to reinspect all shipments of imported *Siluriformes* fish and fish products beginning Aug. 2.

Congress came up with the idea because lawmakers like the job FSIS is doing.

Workers kill pangasius catfish before transferring them to the next processing line in a seafood factory in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. Photo © Jamesbox/Dreamstime.com

Shipments of catfish species will be presented at official import inspection establishments for reinspection by FSIS personnel. Also on Aug. 2, FSIS will begin taking action on imported catfish that has managed to bypass import reinspection, but entered commerce nonetheless. These are called "failure to present" violations.

The additional requirement is being imposed just one month before the end of the 18-month transition period before full enforcement of foreign and domestic catfish inspection by FSIS takes effect on Sept. 1. On that date, outlined in the final rule published on Dec. 2, 2015, for the mandatory inspection of "fish of the order of *Siluriformes*," countries that export catfish species and their products to the United States will be required to use a self-reporting tool (SRT) and document the equivalence of their inspection systems to that of FSIS.

The foreign countries and establishments listed on the FSIS website as eligible must submit a complete SRT and supporting documentation by Sept. 1 to continue exporting *Siluriformes* fish to the U.S., according to FSIS. The agency says it is encouraging importers and brokers to communicate and coordinate closely with their foreign business partners, inspection establishments, and FSIS district offices in advance of the full compliance deadline.

FSIS has worked during the transition with foreign countries who wish to continue exporting *Siluriformes* fish to the U.S.

The job of inspecting catfish has long been a controversial one. In the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills, Congress called for shifting the responsibility from the Food and Drug Administration to FSIS. Domestic catfish farmers sought the change because only about 1 percent to 2 percent of foreign catfish was

being physically inspected by FDA and those imports were coming to dominate the market.

The sometimes slow-moving FSIS, however, came under criticism for spending millions to study catfish inspection while not doing any actual inspection, foreign or domestic. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) did reports pointing out the duplication and cost.

In 2015, however, FSIS and FDA completed a Memorandum of Understanding that permanently sent catfish inspection to the USDA's subagency and a short time later, on March 1, 2016, the 18-month transition period began. The Senate still voted to send catfish inspection back to FDA, but the House never took up the change, leaving catfish inspections with USDA.

The latest Congressional action came in the 2017 Appropriations Act, which in an explanatory statement directs FSIS to begin the reinspections of all imported catfish and catfish products. In appropriating \$1.032 billion for FSIS for fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, Congress said it "recognizes FSIS' diligent work in preventing from entering or removing 547,928 pounds (more than 273 tons) of adulterated or ineligible imported *Siluriformes* product from U.S. commerce since April 15, 2016."

It then added, saying: "In light of these alarming findings, the agreement directs FSIS to reinspect all imported *Siluriformes* fish and fish product shipments, just as all imported meat and poultry products from equivalent countries that export product to the United States are reinspected, upon the date of enactment of this Act."

"The agreement also directs FSIS to complete a determination of equivalence for the *Siluriformes* inspection program in a foreign country exporting *Siluriformes* fish and fish products to the United States not later than 180 days after the end of the 18-month transition period described in the preamble of the final rule entitled 'Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order *Siluriformes* and Products Derived From Such Fish' issued on Dec. 2, 2015," according to the statement.

FSIS has been selecting shipments of *Siluriformes* for reinspection and residue testing since April 15, 2016.

*This article has been reprinted with permission by Dan Flynn.

Original Article: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2017/07/congress-hails-fsis-for-blocking-272-tons-of-bad-foreign-catfish/#.WXIqmoTvvIV>

"By leadership, we mean the art of getting someone else to do something that you want done because he wants to do it."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th US president

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE PRODUCTION FOR USE IN THE UNITED STATES

by *Dr. Ron DeHaven* | 06/01/2017

The enormous economic impact to the United States that would result from an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has been well documented. Regulatory authorities and animal industries alike support the shift in U.S. strategy to employ vaccination as a primary tool early in an outbreak. This revised strategy came about largely in response to the 2001 FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom resulting in the destruction of more than 6 million animals with an estimated cost of \$34.5 billion (2017 dollars). However, the impact from this FMD outbreak in the UK cannot be measured in economic terms alone; the negative public reaction to the widely publicized destruction of so many animals was severe and global in scope. In contrast, a concurrent outbreak of FMD in Uruguay in 2001 that affected approximately the same number of premises and number of cattle, was controlled through vaccination in a shorter time frame and at a cost of only about \$550 million (2017 dollars). More recent outbreaks in Japan (2010) and Korea (2010-2011) could only be brought under control and eliminated with the use of vaccination, again confirming the wisdom of the revised U.S. strategy. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue confirmed his support for an expanded FMD vaccine bank in testimony before the U.S House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture on May 17, 2017. Perdue said he sees vaccine as "insurance" and "priceless" since the agriculture sector cannot afford the fallout from an FMD outbreak in this country.

Conclusions

1. The U.S. response strategy for an outbreak of FMD is heavily dependent on rapid and extensive use of vaccination. History has repeatedly shown that stamping out, without the benefit of vaccination, is ineffective in all but the most limited outbreak situations. The current stockpile of FMD vaccine and vaccine antigen concentrate is woefully inadequate to meet the anticipated demand, both initially and for an ongoing disease response.
2. The capacity to manufacture FMD vaccines in the continental U.S. does not currently exist. Even if live FMD viruses were to be allowed in commercial facilities in the U.S., producing enormous quantities of live, virulent FMD virus needed for large scale vaccine production increases the risk of an accidental release exponentially. The limited benefit of having such a vaccine production facility in the U.S. simply does not outweigh the enormous risks, given the expected loss of export markets that would result from even a very limited and quickly contained outbreak caused by the accidental release of FMD virus from a vaccine production facility.
3. The U.S. should contract with one or more corporations for the offshore production and stockpiling of sufficient quantities of FMD vaccine and VAC, most immediately for those types/subtypes of FMD virus with the highest likelihood of entering the U.S. Further, the U.S. government should enter into contracts with one or more of these firms to have sufficient surge capacity to allow for the production of adequate quantities of a specific type/subtype of FMD vaccine in the event of an ongoing U.S. outbreak.

[LINK TO FULL PAPER:](http://nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FMD-Vaccine-Bank.pdf)

<http://nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FMD-Vaccine-Bank.pdf>

Author: **W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA**

- President, DeHaven Veterinary Solutions, LLC, 2017-Present
- Chief Executive Officer, American Veterinary Medical Association, 2007-2016
- Administrator, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, 2004-2007

Endorsements:

Lonnie J. King, DVM, MS, MPA, Diplomate ACVPM

- Professor & Dean Emeritus, Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Director, National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases, CDC, 2006-2009
- Dean, Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, 1996-2006
- Administrator, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, 1992-1996

James A. Roth, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVM

- Director, Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University, 2002-present
- Executive Director, Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, 1995-present
- Clarence Hartley Covault Distinguished Professor, Iowa State University, 1995-present

Alfonso Torres, DVM, MS, PhD

- Emeritus Professor, Cornell University, 2015-present
- Adjunct Professor, Kansas State University, 2014-present
- Deputy Administrator, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, 1999-2002
- Director, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, 1996-1999
- Chair, Inter-American Group for Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (GIEFA), 2004-2005

The Single Reason Why People Can't Write, According to a Harvard Psychologist

by *Glenn Leibowitz* | *Inc.com*

"Why is so much writing so hard to understand? Why must a typical reader struggle to follow an academic article, the fine print on a tax return, or the instructions for setting up a wireless home network?" These are questions Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker asks in his book, *The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century*. They're questions I've often encountered--and attempted to tackle--throughout my career as a business writer and editor. Whenever I see writing that is loaded with jargon, clichés, technical terms, and abbreviations, two questions come immediately to mind. First, what is the writer trying to say, exactly? And second, how can the writer convey her ideas more clearly, without having to lean on language that confuses the reader?

For Pinker, the root cause of so much bad writing is what he calls "the Curse of Knowledge", which he defines as "a difficulty in imagining what it is like for someone else not to know something that you know. The curse of knowledge is the single best explanation I know of why good people write bad prose."

"Every human pastime--music, cooking, sports, art, theoretical physics--develops an argot to spare its enthusiasts from having to say or type a long-winded description every time they refer to a familiar concept in each other's company. The problem is that as we become proficient at our job or hobby we come to use these catchwords so often that they flow out of our fingers automatically, and we forget that our readers may not be members of the clubhouse in which we learned them."

People in business seem particularly prone to this "affliction." You could argue that business has developed its own entirely unique dialect of English. People are exposed to an alphabet soup of terms and acronyms at business school, which they then put into

use in their day-to-day interactions once they enter the working world.

And what starts out as a means of facilitating verbal communication between people becomes the primary mode with which people communicate their ideas in writing, from email to chat apps to business proposals and presentations.

"How can we lift the curse of knowledge?" asks Pinker. "A considerate writer will...cultivate the habit of adding a few words of explanation to common technical terms, as in 'Arabidopsis, a flowering mustard plant,' rather than the bare 'Arabidopsis.' It's not just an act of magnanimity: A writer who explains technical terms can multiply her readership a thousandfold at the cost of a handful of characters, the literary equivalent of picking up hundred-dollar bills on the sidewalk."

"Readers will also thank a writer for the copious use of for example, as in, and such as, because an explanation without an example is little better than no explanation at all."

Whenever I write a sentence that makes me pause and wonder about what it means, I assume that other readers might react in the same way. If a sentence is not clear to me, it might not be clear to others. It's an approach that I recommend to anyone who is trying to improve his own writing.

Before hitting publish and sending your writing out to the world, it's better to be honest with yourself about how much your reader is likely to understand a given passage or sentence. Before you commit your writing to print--or to the internet--take a few moments to make sure that what you write is clear and understandable by as many of your intended readers as possible.

As Richard Feynman, the Nobel prize-winning physicist, once wrote, "If you ever hear yourself saying, 'I think I understand this,' that means you don't." **Original Article:** <https://www.inc.com/glenn-leibowitz/the-single-reason-why-people-cant-write-according-.html>

USDA Technology Transfer Report Highlights "Made in America" Research

"USDA's made-in-America research gives us new technology that creates business opportunities and private sector jobs in both agriculture and other sectors," Agriculture Secretary Perdue said. "Studies show that every dollar invested in agricultural research returns \$20 to our economy. Just like the crops that come up out of our soil, these inventions and innovations were made in America."

The 559-page report outlines the public release and adoption of information, tools, and solutions developed through USDA's agricultural research efforts, collaborative partnerships, and formal Cooperative Research and Development Agreements. The innovations outlined in the report show how these efforts have translated into public-private partnerships that help American agriculture and other businesses compete in the world marketplace.

[USDA Press Release No. 0073.17](#)

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS CIVIL SERVICE OVERHAUL; POTENTIALLY GOOD OR BAD FOR NAFV MEMBERS?

Joe Davidson of the Washington Post reports today that NAPA, a think tank chartered by Congress, reviewed the situation of the Civil Service and has: 1) declared it broken, 2) rejects incremental fixes, and 3) recommends “a fundamentally new approach – a federated personnel system giving each agency more power”. Davidson goes on to quote the report: “ ‘This [new approach] includes flexibilities for staffing, pay, promotion, employee engagement, employee assessment, career paths and motivation for high fliers and strategies for dealing with poor performers’ ”.

The federated nature of the proposed new structure would mean that agencies would compete for employees. Davidson states, however, that agencies could not “abandon merit principals that are at the core of the civil service system”. Employee organizations have been divided over the report, where “rank and file union leaders” reject the findings, while the Association of Senior Executives Association “agreed with the report’s findings”.

See NAPA report:

http://napawash.org/images/reports/2017/No-Time-to-Wait_Building-a-Public-Service-for-the-21st-Century.pdf

RELEVANT POINTS FOR FEDERAL VETERINARIANS:

Growing gap between government’s needs and its workforce. Some jobs in government agencies are so important that failing to fill them—and ensuring they are filled by employees with effective skills and strong motivation—risks undermining government performance. In fact, of the 34 areas that GAO identified as “high-risk” in 2017—areas especially prone to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement—the agency found that 15 of them had serious gaps between the skills agencies needed and the skills they had on board.

In particular, GAO identified six areas as especially “mission critical”: cybersecurity, acquisition, human resources, auditor, economist, and the STEM area. Some occupations are still characterized in some agencies by numerous journey-level employees who perform well enough to meet “fully successful” standards, but have not advanced their occupational skills. There are undoubtedly other areas where agencies face special challenges. But the simple fact is this: no one knows just how large the gaps are; which gaps which agencies face in which numbers; and how best to fill them. The country is flying blind into wicked problems, without enough pilots who know how to direct its programs onto the right routes.

LET NAFV KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

Email: nafv@nafv.org

Perdue Holds Firm on Brazilian Beef Ban

by *Susan Kelly* | *MeatingPlace* | 7/21/2017

Brazil needs to demonstrate progress on food safety issues before a timeline can be set to end a U.S. ban on imports of fresh Brazilian beef, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said after meeting with his Brazilian counterpart in Washington, D.C., this week.

Brazil's minister of agriculture, Blairo Maggi, traveled to Washington on Monday to press for a resumption of fresh beef exports from the country.

“Open dialogue is good, but we need to see progress,” Perdue said in a tweet accompanied by a photo taken with Maggi at their meeting.

The U.S. government in June announced the suspension of all fresh beef imports from Brazil because of recurring concerns about the safety of the prod-

ucts.

Prior to the suspension, USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service stepped up inspections and refused entry to nearly 2 million pounds of Brazilian beef products due to public health concerns, sanitary conditions and animal health issues.

The Brazilian government has said the suspension was related to non-conformities due to reactions to vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which can provoke abscesses in the meat.

The U.S. embargo is among a series of challenges Brazilian meat producers are facing this year, after an investigation questioning the quality of sanitary inspections was released in March, prompting dozens of countries to temporary block shipments from the country.

Federal Veterinarians Protect and Improve Public and Animal Health and Welfare

National Association of Federal Veterinarians
 1910 Sunderland Place
 Washington, DC 20036

Periodicals postage paid
 at Washington, DC

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. Muhammad Kaif**, Retirement, Fredericksburg, PA 11/30/2016
- Dr. Ulysses G. Whitworth**, Retirement, Rose Hill, NC 12/31/2016
- Dr. James Gibson**, Retirement, Collins, MS 1/2/2017
- Dr. Khuram Afzal**, Promotion, Mooresville, WV 2/5/2017
- Dr. Brooke Henderson**, Promotion, Salisbury, MD 2/19/2017
- Dr. Edmund Blackler**, Retirement, Sturgis, SD 2/22/2017
- Dr. Betty S. Hallett**, Retirement, Creston, CA 2/28/2017
- Dr. Mark R. Hembry**, Retirement, Hattiesburg, MS 2/28/2017
- Dr. Kurt L. Jacobs**, Retirement, Lindstrom, MN 2/28/2017
- Dr. Lisa Powell**, Promotion, Washington, DC 4/2/2017
- Dr. Jeffrey Tegtmeier**, Retirement, Omaha, NE 4/29/2017

USDA APHIS Members

- Dr. Maria Romano**, Promoted, Riverdale, MD, 06/11/2017
- Dr. Collen Bruning Fann**, Retirement, East Lansing, 07/01/2017

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Retiring Members:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NAFV members who retire in good standing with the NAFV, automatically qualify for Associate status.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Associate membership is free for life, with the exception of a \$25.00 mailed-newsletter subscription to the <i>Federal Veterinarian</i>. E-subscriptions to our newsletter are free of charge.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If recently retired, please email Ms. Mariana Barros at mbarros@nafv.org</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Email Changes of Address to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">mbarros@nafv.org</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Returned Checks NAFV charges \$10.00 for checks returned for Insufficient funds</p> |
|---|---|

Welcome New Members

- Dr. Mark Hall**, APHIS-VS, GS-14, LSU '82, College Park, MD (Recommended by Dr. Rachel Cezar)
- Dr. Jenny Tam**, FSIS, GS-11, ROS '12, Monterrey Park, CA
- Dr. Ashraf Fam**, FSIS, GS-12, UNK, East Earl, PA (Recommended by Dr. Oleg Shleyfer)
- Dr. Amy Green**, APHIS-VS, GS-12, MSU '15, El Paso, TX
- Dr. Donna Debonis**, FSIS, GS-12, CSU '83, San Antonio, TX (Recommended by Dr. Michael Mikhael)