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Announcements

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With any questions, please contact Ms. Mariana Barros at mbarros@nafv.org

Leadership Shake-up Begins for All 15 Federal Food Safety Agencies

Food Safety News, By Dan Flynn | December 1, 2016

The 15 federal agencies that together enforce at least 30 federal food safety laws are getting new leadership just as fast as President-elect Donald J. Trump can make his cabinet appointments from the long line of applicants showing up at Trump Tower in New York City.

And some top job holders want to stay on.

Below the cabinet level, at least one of President Obama's agency bosses wants to keep his job in the Trump administration. FDA Commissioner Robert Califf plans to submit his resignation as presidential transition protocol demands, but he is also asking President Trump for re-appointment with support from his fellow elite cardiologists around the country.

Trump has already named Georgia congressman and orthopedic surgeon Tom Price to run Health and Human Services, which houses such important food safety units as the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Also financier Wilbur Ross has been nominated as Secretary of Commerce. Ross will be the new boss for whoever ends up running the National Marine Fisheries Services.

Trump still has not named anyone for the top jobs at Agricultural, Homeland Security, or the Environmental Protection Agency, all of which have food safety or water quality assignments under federal law. And the new President's appointments do not end with the top jobs. The Director of CDC, the FDA Commissioner, and the USDA's Under Secretary for Food Safety are all subject to Pres-

idential appointment.

Rep. Tom Price, with a 20 year legislative record split between the Georgia State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, with U.S. Senate confirmation will become the HHS boss over agencies that are vital to food safety including FDA and CDC.

Trump's appointments will likely be confirmed by the Senate because of the so-called "nuclear option," which refers to the decisions Democrats made when they were in the majority to approve Presidential appointments with a simple majority vote.

Price, named as the next Secretary of HHS by President-elect Donald J. Trump, currently chairs the House Budget Committee, where he has become a key player in the GOP plan to erase Obamacare from the law books. As Secretary of HHS, one of his jobs will be to provide food safety leadership.

POLITICOS Morning Agriculture Wednesday became the first to report that Price voted against both the Food Safety Modernization Act and the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act, both measures adopted by Congress in 2010 with bipartisan majorities. He also favored exempting grocery and convenience stores from menu labeling rules as mandated by the Affordable Care Act.

Rep. Price's Senate confirmation will likely involve some turbulence because he plans to torch the ACA, Barack Obama's legacy bill. How much time will remain for questioning him about his commitment to food safety enforcement remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, it's not known if Dr.

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EVP Column

NAFV visit to veterinarians at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, DVM

I arrived at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters on December 8, 2016 to meet with veterinarians working within CDC. The security procedures for entry were fairly strict because CDC is working with some highly infectious disease agents under biosafety level 4 biocontainment precautions. I did not visit the level 4 areas so I did not have to put on a positive pressure personnel suit, etc.

I first met with Dr. Hugh Mainzer, an NAFV member and former Chief Veterinary Officer, U.S. Public Health Service. We have worked together on veterinary workforce issues since 2009 within the federal veterinary workforce's Talent Management Advisory Council (TMAC). Dr. Mainzer gave me an update on the work he is doing with Zika Virus.

I then met with Ted Pestorius, Management Officer, and Debra Lubar, Deputy Director for Management and Operations. One of the issues we discussed was increasing veterinary pay at CDC. They were very interested in the work we had done on Title 38 pay incentives within the TMAC. They asked to work with NAFV in the near future on ways to increase veterinary pay at CDC.

Next, I visited with Dr. Casey Barton-Behravesh, Dr. Jennifer Mitchell and Ms. Kerri Lipton with the CDC One Health Office. They shared a few resources: First, is a link to more information about the Global Health Security Agenda and the Joint External Evaluation (JEE)



process, a list of countries planning on conducting a JEE, and final country reports on their JEE: <https://www.ghsagenda.org/assessments>.

Next, they provided a link to the final report on the JEE for the United States: <https://www.ghsagenda.org/docs/default-source/jee-reports/united-states-jee-report.pdf>.

We discussed how students get involved at CDC and provided a link to the CDC's Epidemiology Elective Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/epielective/>.

This 6- to- 8 week rotation is for 4th year veterinary or medical students interested in pursuing a career in public health. The application period is currently closed, but opens again in January 2017 for the Fall Semester application period.

I learned another mechanism used by CDC for students is through Emory University's Rollins Earn And Learn (REAL) program. This opportunity is exclusive to MPH candidates enrolled at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. In order to qualify, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be awarded RE-

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AL funding in their financial aid package. Other eligibility requirements can be found here: <https://www.sph.emory.edu/rollins-life/community-engaged-learning/real/students/index.html>

Next, I met with Dr. Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov with the CDC comparative medicine branch. We took a tour of the animal facilities. For lunch, I gave an overview of NAFV to a group of veterinarians and answered questions. They also informed me of personnel issues they encounter at CDC and are in-

terested in NAFV assistance. I then met with Dr. Ryan Wallace with the Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology to learn about the work they perform.

The visit ended with a joint meeting with veterinary liaisons Drs. Tom Gomez, APHIS; Kristin Holt, FSIS; and Susan Lance, FDA. They informed me of the interactions these agencies have with CDC and how they coordinate activities between agencies. I thought the visit was very productive and I was asked to return.

NAFV Member Activities

African swine fever in Ukraine: A project to improve biosecurity on swine farms

Dr. Bob Bokma, Retired APHIS

African swine fever in Ukraine

Ukraine has reported recurring outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) genotype II since its reintroduction in July 2012. Figure 1 shows formal 2016 reports. (A) As is typical with this genotype, mortality has been extremely high. An introduction in 1975 was successfully eliminated. (1, 2)

formal and unregulated marketing of swine meat that occurs outside of normal government controls and supply system, wild boar (hunting of and subsequent movement of infected meat and trophies, migration of wild boar that may have become infected into areas where there are swine (backyard or commercial)), dirty vehicles and loading docks for the transport of pigs, and unhygienic

or other sources, in the face of an outbreak. (2)

Project to improve biosecurity on swine farms

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service received a modest amount of funding earmarked to address veterinary needs in Ukraine and carried out a small project to address biosecurity on commercial swine farms in Ukraine. During a detail (September - October 2016 timeframe), I along with a Ukrainian veterinary consultant visited 10 swine farms located in Western and Central Ukraine that are members of the Association of Ukrainian Pig Breeders (AUPB) to assess their implementation of basic biosecurity practices and to provide recommendations. Representatives from each farm were asked to complete a questionnaire in advance of the visit.

The questionnaire was modeled on the design of the questionnaire offered by the National Pork Board that addressed a number of factors such as management of risk from staff, farm location and perimeter, feed sourcing, preparation, transportation and loading bay, cleaning and disinfection, and source of replacement animals. (E) The Ukrainian version also contained a section on ASF awareness

Summary	Report	Country	Date of Notification	Disease	Reason for notification	Disease manifestation	Outbreaks	Date resolved
		Ukraine	12/05/2016	African swine fever	First occurrence	Clinical disease	1	Continuing
		Ukraine	24/05/2016	African swine fever	Reoccurrence	Clinical disease	5	Continuing
		Ukraine	08/06/2016	African swine fever	First occurrence	Clinical disease	1	Continuing
		Ukraine	30/08/2016	African swine fever	First occurrence	Clinical disease	4	Continuing
		Ukraine	30/08/2016	African swine fever	First occurrence	Clinical disease	1	11/10/2016
		Ukraine	02/09/2016	African swine fever	First occurrence	Clinical disease	8	Continuing
		Ukraine	04/11/2016	African swine fever	Reoccurrence	Clinical disease	2	Continuing
		Ukraine	09/02/2016	African swine fever	Reoccurrence	Clinical disease	1	18/03/2016
		Ukraine	16/03/2016	African swine fever	First occurrence	Clinical disease	4	Continuing
		Ukraine	08/04/2016	African swine fever	Reoccurrence	Sub-clinical	1	Continuing

Figure 1. Ukraine immediate notifications 2016

practices of personnel and visitors to swine farms (backyard or commercial.)

For the management of ASF, the Ukraine veterinary services follows the guidance of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. All swine on farms confirmed infected are slaughtered. (B, C, D)

In Ukraine, the more important risk factors for the introduction of ASF into swine farms include in-

Additional factors purportedly have been instability following the reorganization of government veterinary programs following government restructuring in 2014, as well as inflation and uncertainty as to the potential for indemnification, by the government services

(Continued on Pg. 5, "African Swine...")

NAFV Meeting - DELMARVA Chapter

A luncheon meeting of the Delmarva Chapter of NAFV was held on Saturday, October 29th, 2016 at the LaQuinta Inn in Salisbury, Maryland. Individuals in attendance included SPHV's Ahmad Jilani, Naser Awad, Munir Burriro, Adanetch Gebreselassie, Brian Hillegass, Jamshed Khan, Hashim Osman, Rose-Marie Palmer, Muhammad Qadir, FLS Tagelsir Mohamed, EIAO/PHV Yonas Mehari, and retired member veterinarians Shabbir Chohan, Emmanuel Gulab, and Amar Parmar. Dr. Ahmad Jilani, Chapter President, provided opening remarks and welcomed those in attendance. He acknowledged the addition of our newer members Drs. Burriro, Gebreselassie, and Osman and asked all in attendance to provide a brief introduction. We were pleased that the NAFV staff, Dr. Michael Gilsdorf - Executive Vice president, Mr. William Hughes, Esq. - General Counsel, and Ms. Mariana Barros - Administrative Assistant, traveled to join us and provide information on current NAFV initiatives to the members.

Mr. William G. Hughes Esq. discussed efforts to influence the federal government transition team to help increase the number of credentialed food safety and health professionals in FSIS management. NAFV also plans to work with the AVMA to get them more involved in federal veterinary issues. NAFV wants to get the true consumer associations, Congress, European veterinary association, and media involved in supporting hiring additional credentialed food safety and health professionals. Mr. Hughes also discussed improvement of advancement opportunities for veterinarians.

Mr. Hughes then discussed areas where individuals need to be careful and vigilant in following proper policies. He reminded members to be very accurate on Time-and-Attendance reports. He warned members not to use government email for non-official business and avoid any financial relationships with subordinates and plant personnel. He also advocated that individuals strongly consider having professional liability insurance that is offered through FEDS, of which the Agency will reimburse part of the cost for individuals in supervisory/managerial positions. He emphasized that members follow established FSIS policies and document your actions, because if you are following established policies and acting within the scope of your employ-



ment you are more easily protected from potential lawsuits or adverse actions. He requested that members call or email him with questions at any time.

Dr. Gilsdorf discussed current NAFV activities. USDA has designated PHV positions as a Mission Critical Occupation and therefore Agencies are required to assess the workforce (staffing adequacy/vacancies) and close skill gaps. Dr. Gilsdorf will be working with the Congressional Veterinary Congress to request support of federal veterinary workforce issues. He provided a list of topics for the upcoming FSIS Intramanagement Meetings of which workload/staffing issues was a primary topic. Also the establishment of a PHV training workgroup to assess the training needs of current PHV's in their roles as public health professionals. There was a lot of discussion within the group concerning the supervision challenges and lack of authority of supervisors in the establishments. This is a huge area of concern and many members would like advice on how best to handle these issues and would like more supervisory training from the agency.

Dr. Gilsdorf presented information on the overall decrease in federal veterinarians in government service from the previous year including the decline specific for FSIS (currently 1009 versus 1023 previously). He also presented the breakdown of veterinarians in federal service with the top three agencies being FSIS - 34%, APHIS - 25%, and the Army - 18%. Dr. Gilsdorf informed the members of the recent NAFV election results. Dr. Larry Davis will become the President starting in 2017, Dr. Barbara Porter-Spalding is President-elect (to assume office in 2019) and Dr. Deanna Brown is Secretary/Treasurer. He also provided the results for the Board of Directors for each Agency, and Dr. Jilani was acknowledged as being an alternate board member for FSIS.

(Continued from Pg. 3, "African Swine..")

and community education. The project also called for putting on two workshops and a presentation at the annual meeting of the AUPB.

Following the visits, a report addressing findings and recommendations was prepared for each farm and shared with farm management. A section on recommendations for disinfection was also offered in each report.

Results and discussion

On several of the commercial farms visited, biosecurity was excellent, however, on all farms, biosecurity risks were observed. Management of employees and risk exposure was considered extremely important inasmuch as these generally were villagers where backyard pigs are normal. Some of the better staff management practices were longer shifts (weekly or longer and use of dormitories to reduce frequent exposure to village pigs), meals provided with use of safe pork or no pork in the menu, a bench system for all employees to leave their dirty shoes in the outside part of the first change room) and verification that residences of employees do not have backyard pigs.

In the area of pig transport, some better practices that were

noteworthy included the following: no cross-path travel of dirty and clean vehicles, sanitary loading bays made of impermeable surfaces and based on zones internal to outside, use of cleaning and disinfection after each loading and the use of dedicated employees to manage the loading bay, active management of truck washing, truck washing stations and verification of client truck cleanliness.

With regard to location and isolation, some farms practiced excellent biosecurity measures such as appropriate signage, distance from the main roads, well maintained perimeter fence in excellent repair, cleaning of the area on both sides of the perimeter fence, elimination of fruit and nut trees that attract rodents and birds, and a distance of the farm from nearby village residences.

I believe that all farms visited benefitted from the project and recommendations made. Future projects may focus on biosecurity workshops, improving awareness of the risks that ASF presents to neighborhood farms and to village well-being, development and implementation of a pork quality assurance program that emphasizes biosecurity, or a focus on compartmentalization that would allow safe trade in the advent of infection in neighboring farms.

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2. African swine fever in the Russian Federation: risk factors for Europe and beyond. FAO EMPRES WATCH, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, May 2013 (<<http://www.fao.org/3/a-aq240e.pdf>>, accessed November 15, 2016).

Other sources

- (A) OIE country reports (<http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Countryreports>, accessed November 15, 2016).
- (B) OIE, Terrestrial Animal Health Code (<<http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>>, Chapter 1.6 Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE; Chapter 4.3 Zoning and compartmentalization; Chapter 4.4 Application of compartmentalization; and Chapter 15.1 African Swine Fever).
- (C) Dr. Vitalii Bashynskyi, veterinary consultant, FAO and the Ukrainian veterinary services, Kyiv, personal communication
- (D) Dr. Oleg Nevolko, veterinary diagnostics department of the State Scientific and Research Institute for Laboratory Diagnostics and Sanitary Expertise, Kyiv, personal communication
- (E) Biosecurity Guide for Pork Producers, Pork Checkoff (<<https://webadmin.pork.org/filelibrary/Biosecurity/final%20biosecurity%20book.pdf>>. accessed November 15, 2016.)

(Continued from Pg. 1, "Leadership Shake-up")

Tom Frieden, CDC's director, wants to enlist in the Trump administration. He's run the agency since 2009.

Apparently on the back burner for the Trump transition is the Secretary of Agriculture. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) all have greater and lesser food safety roles.

Trump has a long-line of candidates for Secretary of Agriculture. Every Republican farm state governor and every member of either the House or Senate

Agriculture Committees seems available to serve. Obama's Secretary of Agriculture, former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, is days away from being the longest serving USDA boss in 50 years. If Trump cannot get through the crowd of USDA candidates, Vilsack will be around on the last day of the Obama administration to carry on.

And although mandated by law, the Under Secretary for Food Safety job has been left vacant for last three years of Obama administration.

2017 Calendars are still available for orders!

If you'd like to order your free membership calendar, please contact Ms. Mariana Barros at mbarros@nafv.org

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Member Obituaries: Dr. David J. Ezersky

Dr. David Jerome Ezersky, Mears, VA—Dr. David Jerome Ezersky, 73, of Mears, VA, passed away at his home on Sunday, November 27, 2016. Born in Baltimore, MD, he was the son of the late Harry Myer Ezersky and Kate Stiener Ezersky Wolff, and step-son of the late Bert Wolff.

David attended the University of Maryland at College Park, the University of Georgia and received his doctorate degree in veterinarian medicine from the University of Philippines. He was an active member of the NAFV, National Association of Federal Veterinarians, where he previously served as president of the local chapter (DELMARVA Chapter) for many years, and also served in various positions for the national BOD.

He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Betty Annis Ezersky; 2 daughters, Karen Ann Ezersky - Shuck & her husband, Christopher of Mears, VA, and Jill Harriet Ezersky of Culpepper, VA; a granddaughter, Ivey Renee Ezersky - Shuck of Mears, VA; and several other extended family members.

A private graveside service was conducted at Beth Israel Cemetery in Salisbury.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Ronald McDonald House, and or the American Cancer Society. NAFV also encourages members to make contributions to the NAFV Memorial Scholarship Fund in Dr. Ezersky's honor. This fund contributes scholarships for students who are descendants of past or present NAFV members.

Please visit www.hollowayfh.com to express condolences to the family.

Personal Comments from Bill Hughes

I knew David for over forty years. We were not only business friends, but personal friends. Our families occasionally spent weekends together on the Eastern Shore when our daughters were young, my twins, and his and Betty's two girls.

David was a long time member of NAFV. I first met him at a Delmarva Chapter meeting in the mid 1970s. Most of his career was spent as Inspector in Charge of what was then one of the largest poultry slaughter plants in the U.S., the Perdue plant in Accomac, Virginia. At one time he had over forty food inspectors under his supervision, and several veterinarians. Over the years he received many awards for his service.

David served as NAFV Regional Representative for many years in the former FSIS Northeastern Region, being involved in Area, Regional and National level Consultations with FSIS higher management. We had many projects together, and he assisted me in the representation of numerous members.

David had been gravely ill for a number of years prior to his death, being cared for by his devoted wife Betty, who herself had worked for FSIS until her retirement. He had many friends around the country, particularly here on the Shore. He will be missed.

Bill Hughes

Independent experts find no grounds for retraction of the BMJ article on dietary guidelines

2 December 2016

The BMJ Press Release

- *Formal reviews reject calls for retraction led by Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)*
- *Reviewers say criticisms of methods used by the guidelines committee “are within the realm of scientific debate,” and merit “further investigation of the composition of the committee”*
- *The BMJ is publishing a notice of correction and clarification*
- *Journal stands by the article and will continue to provide a forum for debate on the science and politics of nutrition*

Two independent experts who conducted formal post-publication reviews of an article in **The BMJ** questioning the science behind US dietary guidelines have found no grounds for retraction.

The BMJ is, however, publishing a notice of correction and clarification to the article on the basis of the reviews and internal assessment of the issues raised.

The article by Nina Teicholz, published in September 2015, argued that the US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) used weak scientific methods to develop the guidelines.

The article went through The BMJ’s standard peer review and editorial processes.

However, in an open letter to The BMJ organized by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), over 100 scientists raised specific concerns about the article and asked for it to be retracted.

The BMJ decided to refer the matter to two independent experts in systematic reviews of evidence for guidelines and agreed to abide by their findings.

They were Professor Lisa Bero, Chair of Medicines Use and

Health Outcomes at the University of Sydney, and Professor Mark Helfand, Professor of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology at the Oregon Health & Science University.

Both reviewers found that the authors of the CSPI letter were correct in their contention that the DGAC report described methods for identifying, selecting, and evaluating evidence for its report.

But they also noted problems with the committee’s methods and rejected the letter’s contention that the article should be retracted.

Professor Bero concluded: “Teicholz’s criticisms of the methods used by DGAC are within the realm of scientific debate” and Professor Helfand said that “it is clear that further investigation of the composition of the committee, as well as its conflict of interest policies and work group structure, are warranted.”

(Article edited for length.)

Pay Agent Shoots Down Large Expansion of Locality Pay

By Ralph R. Smith on December 18, 2016

A number of federal employees who are expecting a slightly larger pay raise in 2017 than the overall average raise will be disappointed.

The Federal Salary Council recommended expanding existing locality pay areas to include a number of new areas. Some areas did not include any or had only one or two federal employees working under the GS pay scale.

Expanding locality pay areas is effectively a way of providing a pay raise through an administrative process. It also does not raise questions in Congress or create publicity about a pay raise.

Proposed Expansion of Locality Pay

The Salary Council referred to these areas as “proposed new areas of application....” Some of these new locations would have been included in separate locality pay areas. Others would have been added to existing locality areas. The recommendation was to implement these in 2016.

The Federal Salary Council consists primarily of federal union representatives. It general-

ly recommends more inclusion in existing pay, more locality pay areas and more money for the locality pay areas. The decision to accept or reject Salary Council recommendations is up to the President’s Pay Agent.

Adding Areas Adjacent to Existing Locality Pay Areas

The Salary Council wanted to ignore the number of federal employees working in an area as a way of deciding to add new areas. The Pay Agent rejected this and again concluded “...we will not adopt, as currently presented, the Council’s recommendation to eliminate the GS employment criterion.”

So, “[B]ecause the GS employment criterion will continue to apply, there is no reason to increase the commuting interchange threshold for adjacent single counties.”

What About Adding to Existing Locality Pay Areas?

The Salary Council recommended adding a number of other counties and “micropolitan” areas. That would have expanded the locality pay system while

(Continued on Pg. 11, “Pay Agent...”)

FSIS Selects 20 Veterinary Students for the Adel A. Malak Scholarship Program (Pilot)



Pictured: Ms. Laurie Mangeli (TUS), scholarship recipient

To aggressively and significantly reduce the public health veterinarian vacancy rate in slaughter and processing plants in the Office of Field Operations (OFO), FSIS announced in May the first ever, **Adel A. Malak Scholarship Program**. Created to honor the

memory of Dr. Adel A. Malak, a dedicated former FSIS Public Health Veterinarian (PHV), this program has been created to recruit students to crucial Public Health Veterinarian positions in OFO. Mirroring APHIS’ Saul T. Wilson Scholarship, this FSIS Scholarship is intended to encourage veterinary students to consider the professional opportunities and benefits that exist within a career in federal service.

Each of the students selected will receive \$15,000 for tuition and school expenses for each year in the program, paid employment during summer and school breaks, a comprehensive mentorship and professional development program, and federal benefits. After completion of their veterinary program, scholarship recipients will become public health veterinarians in OFO for at least one calendar year for each school period covered by the scholarship.

Because this scholarship pilot is part of the USDA Pathways Internship Program, participants will have the opportunity for non-competitive conversion to a permanent appointment with FSIS’ OFO upon successful completion of the program with a DVM degree, training, and other work requirements.

Over 150 students applied to the program in May

and by 30 September, 20 students were offered and accepted scholarships, representing 14 veterinary colleges in the United States. They are as listed in the table above.

FSIS intends to announce an additional 20 scholarship recipients in early 2017.

FSIS will be managing this program as a pilot experience for FY16 and FY17. Students selected into the program will be supported during the course of their studies to graduation, though not to exceed four years for any given student. FSIS will be evaluating the program throughout the pilot period to determine if benefits to the Agency support making this a permanent recruitment and retention tool.

For additional information on the Adel A. Malak Scholarship, please contact Dr. Patty Bennett: patty.bennett@FSIS.USDA.gov.

William Loucks	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sydney Stewart	University of Georgia
Katherine Smith	University of Georgia
Leanne Jankelunas	Cornell University
Marjorie Gurganus	NC State University
Galen Vosseller	NC State University
Morgan Halley	University of California, Davis
Raven Canady	Michigan State University
Christina Smith	Purdue University
Kristine Gomez	Oregon State University
Laurie Mangeli	Tuskegee University
Dayton Schleicher	University of Tennessee
Caroline Benham	University of Tennessee
Jason Doll	Tufts University - Cummings SVM
Katherine Ronk	Virginia-Maryland College
Ann Carpenter	Virginia-Maryland College
Lydia Carpenter	Virginia-Maryland College
Isabelle Withrock	Kansas State University
Marissa Martinez	University of Missouri
Jessica Jacquin	University of Missouri

NAFV reached out to one of the recipients of the Dr. Malek Scholarship Program, Ms. Laurie Mangeli of Tuskegee University to get a sense of how this opportunity will influence students’ interest in public veterinary service.

NAFV: Can you tell us a bit about your background and interest in veterinary medicine?

LM: “My formative years were on my grandparents’ farm in Nairobi, Kenya. We raised cattle, goats, turkey and chicken as food/produce animal. I was also privileged to have rabbits, cats and dogs to interact with and develop my human-animal bond at a young age. I distinctly recall one of the cows having trouble

calving and requiring a veterinarian to intervene. Then is when my inspiration to become a veterinarian was birthed (no pun intended). My love of animals has been innate and it is important to me that they are treated in a humane manner.”

NAFV: Does your school offer a good foundation on public veterinary medicine?

(Continued on Pg. 9, “Dr. Adel Malek...”)

(Continued from Pg. 8, "Dr. Adel Malek...")

LM: "Over and above public health veterinary medicine in the teaching curriculum, Tuskegee University CVM offers supplementary opportunities to learn about public health particularly by inviting speakers to come and teach on the importance of public health veterinary medicine."

NAFV: What about public veterinary work interests you the most?

LM: "About 75% of the new diseases that have affected humans over the past 10 years have been caused by pathogens originating from an animal or from products of animal origin" – WHO.

Unfortunately, zoonotic diseases are all around us, but the public is unaware about how to protect themselves against these diseases. Prior to my matriculation at TUCVM, I worked at a low cost clinic and local shelter where preventative medicine was the main focus. Besides getting to love on clients' pets, I enjoyed educating the clients on how to not only protect their pets but also concurrently, their family! I

saw a lot more clients apt to following through with preventative care as a means to avoid the potential zoonotic diseases. Public veterinary work goes beyond companion animals and I am interested in learning other ways I can educate and aid in public health awareness through my future veterinary medicine career.

NAFV: Do you think this scholarship program might cause you to consider pursuing a public veterinary track?

LM: "I am honored and elated to have been accepted as one of the candidates for the USDA FSIS scholarship and internship in honor of Adel A. Malak and his contributions to public health and preventative medicine. I am looking forward to being mentored by knowledgeable veterinarians with a passion for public health. I believe veterinarians have a crucial role in public health. Integrating humane animal handling and examination while protecting the public health through food safety is important to me. I am excited to learn and grow into this field of practice."

Low incident rate of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies across Europe

By Aidan Fortune

Incidents of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) were found to be rare in 2015, according to a new European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) report.

In its first European Union summary report on data of the surveillance of ruminants for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in 2015, it was found that there were low rates of TSE incidents in Member States (MS) and non-Member States (non-MS). Previous to this year, the annual reports on TSEs were compiled by the European Commission.

In 2015, 1.4 million (m) bovine animals were tested and five cases were detected in four MS (Ireland: one case; Slovenia: one case; Spain: one case; and the United Kingdom: two cases) and one case was detected in Norway. The

number of samples tested represented a 40% drop on the previous year, with tests performed on risk animals over 48 months of age.

The cases in Ireland and the United Kingdom were affected by classical BSE and both cases were born after the EU-wide feed ban enforced in 2001.

Since 2001, approximately 114m cattle in the EU have been tested for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

The report stated that "age-period analysis of the surveillance data confirms a decrease in the occurrence of C-BSE over time, associated with an increase in the age class with the highest prevalence over the years. This pattern indicates that the measures applied to control the main risk factors (e.g. feed ban) have been effective in reducing the burden of the disease. A similar conclusion is also justified by the fact that the high-

est level of detection occurred in animals born in 1995, when the decline commenced."

During the same year, 319,638 sheep and 135,857 goats were tested. In total, 641 scrapie cases in sheep were detected in 18 MS while 1,052 scrapie cases in goats were detected in nine MS, respectively. In two non-MS, Iceland and Norway, 40 scrapie cases in sheep were detected.

The report said there is no clear overall trend of improvement in the epidemiological situation of scrapie in small ruminants either in terms of absolute number of cases or proportion of cases. However, in a number of countries a decreasing trend in the annual ratios of classical scrapie or atypical scrapie was observed.

Original Article: <http://www.globalmeatnews.com/Livestock/Low-rate-of-BSE-across-Europe>

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."

-John Shedd, writer

7 Things Every Federal Worker Should Know About the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act

By Jeff Neal on December 17, 2016

The [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) is an annual piece of must-pass legislation. Because of that, it typically includes provisions that apply to the entire federal government that would be hard to pass on their own. The 2017 NDAA (all 3,000 pages of it) is no exception, with 7 provisions that directly or indirectly will affect every agency.

Here is a summary of those provisions and why you should care about them.

1. Direct-hire authority for the department of defense for post-secondary students and recent graduates. Defense, like much of the federal government, [needs to bring more young people into the workforce](#). This provision allows DoD to hire qualified applicants without competition. The number is limited to 15% of the number of competitive hires in the previous fiscal year. If it is successful, this authority may serve as a model for the rest of the government. It has the potential to make college recruiting effective again, so this is an important step in rebuilding the government's ability to recruit young people.

2. Temporary increase in maximum amount of voluntary separation incentive pay (VSIP) authorized for civilian employees of the Department of Defense. VSIP means buyouts. This provision raises the maximum amount of a buyout from \$25,000 to \$40,000. The buyout authority the government uses began years ago with the Department of Defense, then spread to other agencies. It was \$25,000 at the beginning and remains at that level everywhere else. The problem is that inflation has made buyouts much less ap-

pealing to employees. Adjusted for inflation (based on the consumer price index), the amount should be \$40,000. This provision adjusts the amount to account for inflation and that is a very good thing. It is highly likely that the increased cap will show up in legislation affecting other agencies, making buyouts far more effective as a downsizing and workforce reshaping tool.

3. Direct hire authority for financial management experts in the department of defense workforce. This provision targets an area where Defense has difficulty hiring experienced professionals. Much like the problems with hiring younger folks, this provision approaches the problem by getting the hiring out of the traditional competitive process. This is another example of something that is likely to come up in other agencies.

4. Repeal of certain basis for appointment of a retired member of the armed forces to department of defense position within 180 days of retirement. As part of the post-9/11 authorities given to Defense, DoD was allowed to hire retired members of the armed forces immediately after retirement, rather than waiting at least 180 days. The result, which was not unexpected, was that the number of retirees (particularly senior officers) being hired exploded. MSPB published an [excellent report](#) that addresses the issue. This one applies only to DoD, but the change may make it easier for current employees to compete for jobs in DoD. Because Defense is 40% of the federal workforce, and one of the few departments/agencies that may grow in the next administration, it is significant.

5. Review of official personnel

file of former federal employees before re-hiring. This provision applies government wide. It requires agencies to do the kind of due diligence that they should be doing anyway. It will affect only those folks who have adverse information in their records. The likely outcome is that people whose records are not entirely clean may be less likely to reapply for federal employment.

6. Administrative leave. There has been a lot of press about the misuse of administrative leave. This provision places substantial government wide limits on admin leave, particularly when it is used during investigations of misconduct. It creates new categories of admin leave and requires consistent reporting of its use. Given the millions of dollars wasted by abuse of admin leave, this provision is a great idea that should make a real difference.

7. Record of investigation of personnel action in separated employee's official personnel file. This provision affects employees who are found by an agency to have engaged in misconduct, but who resign or retire before action is taken against them. It requires the agency to include a record of the investigation/finding in the employee's official personnel file. The idea is that it would be far less likely that another agency would hire the former employee. The idea is sound and it may make a difference for early or mid-career employees. It most likely will not change anything for retirees who are less likely to return to government anyway. One exception may be for cases where an agency enters into a settlement agreement. The language in the NDAA does not address settlement agreements

(Continued on Pg. 11, "7 Things...")



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/>

(Continued from Pg. 11, "7 Things...")
where an agency and employee agree that the employee can resign/retire with no adverse information in their record. Agencies often choose to enter into such agreements in order to get someone out of the agency with no risk of losing an appeal or complaint. They sometimes include language that says the employee will never seek employment in that agency again. While those agreements solve one agency's problem, they leave other agencies vulnerable to hiring the employee with no

knowledge of what happened. I would not be surprised to see this provision amended at some point to clarify that settlement agreements cannot be used to avoid complying with it. The changes to civil service laws that are included in the NDAA are favorable and should make real improvements in several areas. None of them are partisan and all of them address issues that DoD and other agencies are dealing with today. The approach that the House and Senate used to develop the language could serve as a mod-

el for future civil service reforms.
- See more at: <http://www.fedsmith.com/2016/12/17/7-things-every-federal-worker>

<http://www.fedsmith.com/2016/12/17/7-things-every-federal-worker-should-know-about-the-2017-national-defense-authorization-act/should-know-about-the-2017-national-defense-authorization-act/#sthash.njsDgbyL.dpuf>

Original Article: <https://chiefthru.com/2016/12/14/7-things-every-federal-worker-should-know-about-the-2017-national-defense-authorization-act/>

(Continued from Pg. 7, "Pay Agent...")
reducing the "Rest of the US" pay category. For a listing of this large number of new areas, see *Raising Federal Employee Pay By Expanding Locality Pay Areas* and 100+ "Rest of U.S." Locations Recommended for Federal Locality Pay.

The Pay Agent did not go along with this large expansion of locality pay areas. Here is the conclusion of the Pay Agent in its latest report:

The Pay Agent believes any such "Rest of U.S." locations considered for inclusion in a separate local-

ity pay area should be evaluated consistently and in the context of the GS employment criterion not being eliminated. Individuals concerned about locations that are bordered by multiple separate locality pay areas and remain in the "Rest of U.S." locality pay area may provide testimony to the Federal Salary Council on locations of concern.

(Article edited for length.)

Original article: <https://www.fedsmith.com/2016/12/18/pay-agent-shoots-down-large-expansion-of-locality-pay/>

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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. Kevin Kimber**, GS-12, Worthington, MN, Resignation, 10/6/2016
- Dr. Terry Houser**, GS-12, Grand Island, NE, Resignation, 10/3/2016
- Dr. Mark Grundahl**, GS-11, Milwaukee, WI, Retirement, 10/29/2016

USDA APHIS Members

(Information available next month)

Welcome New Members

- Dr. Gregory Mwinyelle**, FSIS, GS-12, JAB '92, Apple Valley, CA
- Dr. Lauren Entes**, FSIS, GS-12, UP '04, Bellerose, NY
- Dr. Aaron Rhyner**, APHIS, GS-12, WIS '13, Chandler, AZ
- Dr. Jason Schewe**, FSIS, GS-12, MIN '14, Holmen, WI
- Dr. Craig Schultz**, FSIS, GS-13, COR '76, Bliss, ID
- Dr. Langston Hull**, APHIS, GS-15, LSU '02, Laurel, MD
- Dr. Steven Rekant**, APHIS, GS-12, VT '13, Falls Church, VA

Email Changes of Address to:
mbarros@nafv.org

Returned Checks
 NAFV charges \$10.00 for checks returned
 for insufficient funds