



FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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Announcements

NEW NAFV MEMBER BENEFIT:

NAFV is teaming up with myplanittraveler.com to grant our membership exclusive savings on flights, lodging, car rentals & vacation resorts.

We are currently working on ironing out last minute details and will be launching our NAFV Traveler website soon.

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

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Schrader, Yoho Reestablish Veterinary Medicine Caucus in the 115th Congress

02/02/2017 | Carlee Griffeth

This week, Congressman Kurt Schrader (OR-5) and Congressman Ted Yoho (FL-3), two of only three licensed Veterinarians in Congress, reestablished the bipartisan Veterinary Medicine Caucus for the 115th Congress. The caucus aims to raise awareness of the importance of veterinary medicine, as well as to advance research, public health, animal health and welfare, and food safety.

“The Caucus remains committed to finding solutions to the biggest issues facing veterinarian medicine right now like recruitment and retention across rural America, helping students manage overwhelming debt, and fighting to keep education costs down,” said Rep. Schrader. “Just like with human medicine, there is zero room for bureaucratic red tape when it comes to training the next generation of doctors.”

The Veterinary Medicine Caucus was first established in 2012 in the 113th Congress. Since then, they’ve led the charge on a number of bills and issues including the introduction of the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act which was enacted into law in 2014. The caucus’s full membership is below:

- Co-chair - Rep. Kurt Schrader, DVM (OR-05)
- Co-chair - Rep. Ted Yoho, DVM (FL-03)
- Rep. Ralph Abraham, DVM (LA-05)
- Rep. Ann Kuster (NH-03)
- Rep. Rodney Davis (IL-13)
- Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-04)
- Rep. John Duncan (TN-02)
- Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-02)
- Rep. Mike Rogers (AL-03)
- Rep. GT Thompson (PA-05)
- Rep. Suzanne DelBene (WA-01)
- Rep. Lois Capps (CA-24)
- Rep. David Joyce (OH-14)
- Rep. Jackie Walorski (IN-02)
- Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (TX-18)
- Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)
- Rep. Alcee Hastings (FL-20)
- Rep. Kevin Yoder (KS-03)
- Rep. Joe Courtney (CT-02)
- Rep. Gregg Harper (MS-03)
- Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-02)
- Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04)
- Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17)
- Rep. Jared Polis (CO-02)
- Rep. Morgan Griffith (VA-09)
- Rep. Cynthia Lummis (WY-AL)
- Rep. David Price (NC-04)
- Rep. David Jolly (FL-13)
- Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-03)
- Rep. Jody Hice (GA-10)
- Rep. John Garamendi (CA-03)
- Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09)
- Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ-01)
- Rep. Susan Davis (CA-53)
- Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)
- Rep. Walter Jones (NC-03)



NAFV President, Dr. Larry Davis inducts Dr. Angela McIntyre as NAFV Coordinator for FSIS in the Atlanta District!

NAFV is happy to announce that Dr. McIntyre will join NAFV’s coordinator committee. NAFV coordinators serve as point of contact for their District and provide subject matter expertise in our consultation meetings with Agency Administration. Interested members should contact

mbarros@nafv.org

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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.

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EVP Column

NAFV Mississippi Chapter Continuing Education Event



L-R: Dr. David Thompson, Dr. Larry Davis, Dr. William Pepper, Dr. Kermit

On Saturday, February 11, 2017 the inaugural One Health Lecture Track series was held as part of the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association's (MVMA) annual Winter Meeting/Conference in Starkville, Mississippi. Starkville is immediately adjacent to Mississippi State University, home of Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM). The lecture series was planned and organized through the Mississippi State Chapter of The National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) in collaboration with the Mississippi State Veterinarian's Office. Support for the event was gained from the MVMA, NAFV, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of Atlanta, GA, and MSU-CVM. This event provided 8 hours of Continuing Education recognized by the MS VMA in fulfillment of its annual licensing requirement.

This inaugural lecture track included:

- *"One Health Relevance in Veterinary Practice"* by Dr. Kermit Harvey, USDA-FSIS DVMS
- *"Vector-borne Diseases"* by Dr. Jerome Goddard, MSU Ex-

tension Service

- *"Brucellosis in the United States: Current Perspectives"* by Dr. Maria Negron-Sureda, CDC
- *"Brucella Serum Bank Study"* by Dr. Kris Hubbard, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- *"Federal Veterinary Career Opportunities"* by Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, National Association of Federal Veterinarians
- *"Overview of the MSU CVM Risk Project"* by Dr. Kimberly Woodruff, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- *"Global One Health and the CVM"* by Dr. Skip Jack, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- *"Case Studies in Population Medicine"* by Dr. Cooper Brookshire, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- *"Enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) in Cattle Populations"* by Dr. Liesel Schneider, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- *"Using System Dynamics Modeling to Study Disease"* by Dr. K.D. Galarneau, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine

The CE event was well-attended the entire day with more than 40 participants. The NAFV MS Chapter also held a brief business meeting and voted on the 2017 President (Dr. Kermit Harvey; President-elect (Dr. Misty Looney); and treasurer (Dr. Joe Dees). The MS Chapter plans to hold this CE event again next year.

"Dr. Brigid Elchos, Deputy State Veterinarian of Mississippi,

(Continued on Pg. 3, "EVP Column")

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

suggested this One Health approach to me several years ago when we were both attending the annual MVMA Winter Conference," said Dr. Kermit Harvey, NAFV Mississippi State Chapter President, adding, "She and I spoke about this for several years and then we were able to assemble a work group last year of similarly interested veterinarians from USDA-APHIS, the US Air Force, the Pharmaceutical Industry, and USDA-FSIS. With NAFV Executive Vice President, Dr. Gilsdorf's and current NAFV President Dr. Larry Davis' help and with additional support from the CDC, we got this off the ground. Dr. Elchos and I spent several years working to bring the One Health track to the MVMA Conference.

Our greater goal is to draw the human medical

association into one larger collaborative effort in the future. Regardless of what we call it, the One Health philosophy needs to be expanded. All educational tracks and specialties in the areas of human and animal diseases and health, including epidemiology and biology, should find ways to work more closely together and share data and knowledge. It only stands to enhance and elevate the veterinarian's role in all of health. We plan upon building upon this inaugural event in future years."

Through discussion and analysis, Dr. Gilsdorf, Dr. Davis, and Dr. Harvey have determined that the methods used in the creation of this Lecture Track offer a model for other NAFV Chapters to follow in serving the needs of their members.

NAFV Representative at 2017 AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference

Dr. Maria Romano, a VMO/ Epidemiologist with USDA APHIS VS attended the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC) on behalf of the NAFV in January 2017. The AVMA VLC is an annual conference attended by veterinarians from state veterinary and allied associations that represent many different aspects of the profession. Attendees are divided into a number of different tracks including Emerging Leaders, State VMA/ ASVMAE, Delegates, AVMA Board of Directors/ House Advisory Committee, and other professionals. The conference is intended to provide opportunities to enhance leadership skills and expand one's professional network. To that end, it offers three days of workshops and numerous networking opportunities that provide invaluable information on leadership, team building, and how the AVMA works with, and for, veterinarians.

As a new member of the field, Dr. Romano was part of the Emerging Leaders track. This particular track caters to veterinarians who graduated within the last five

years and AVMA member veterinarians who graduated within the last 15 years and are interested in learning critical and invaluable leadership skills.

Sessions that Dr. Romano attended through this track offered training in a myriad of topics including how to better understand differences in communication styles to be a more effective leader, how to best use influence in your profession to accomplish goals, and strategies to maintain a fulfilling work-life balance. Further, all of these sessions were interactive and afforded ample opportunity to practice the skills and concepts being presented and receive feedback from both speakers and fellow attendees.

Dr. Romano was also able to attend sessions in other tracks covering topics like how to develop skills for conflict resolution in the workplace, reducing negativity in your personal and professional life, and how to serve as an effective mentor to other professionals. When she was not attending the broad array of workshops, Dr. Romano was able to meet and inter-



act with professionals from nearly every facet of the veterinary field and enhance her professional network.

Dr. Romano said she was honored to represent the NAFV and new veterinary professionals at the AVMA VLC. She feels that all veterinarians new to the profession or their career would benefit not only from the material presented in the workshops but also the personal interactions outside of the classroom. She will use the formal and informal lessons for years to come.

"Each day you are leading by example. Whether you realize it or not or whether it's positive or negative, you are influencing those around you."

- Rob Liano, Author



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/>

NAFV Presence at CDC Student Day



On January 23-24, 2017, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, GA sponsored a day for veterinary students to learn about career opportunities in public health.

Dr. Mehdi Abedi, Public Health Veterinarian with USDA, FSIS represented the NAFV by handing out information and informing students about the NAFV organization. Dr. Angela McIntyre, PHV with FSIS, represented the Agency as well. They are pictured to the left, inversely.

NAFV is currently looking for volunteers who would like to attend local veterinary schools and conferences. If you are interested, please email nafv@nafv.org for more information.

115TH CONGRESS | 1ST SESSION

H. R. 159

TO EXPAND THE WORKFORCE OF VETERINARIANS SPECIALIZED IN THE CARE AND CONSERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS AND THEIR ECOSYSTEMS, AND TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

MR. HASTINGS (FOR HIMSELF AND MR. POLIS) INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING BILL; WHICH WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, AND IN ADDITION TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, FOR A PERIOD TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED BY THE SPEAKER, IN EACH CASE FOR CONSIDERATION OF SUCH PROVISIONS AS FALL WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE CONCERNED

NAFV Signs Letter Endorsing Veterinarian Gov. Sonny Perdue for Secretary of Agriculture

NAFV has signed a letter of endorsement for the confirmation of former Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, DVM as USDA Secretary addressed to Senators Pat Roberts and Debbie Stabenow. If approved, Gov. Perdue would be the first veterinarian to serve as the Department's Secretary since its founding in 1862.

[Full letter with endorsements.](#)

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of the farmers, ranchers, hunters, forest owners, cooperatives, businesses, trade associations, and all other segments of the agriculture, food and nutrition, landscape, and conservation community represented by the undersigned, we write to urge your support for the expeditious confirmation of Sonny Perdue to be Secretary of Agriculture. We are looking forward to having his tested leadership and experience at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). There have been 30 Secretaries of Agriculture since the job was created in 1889, and though some were raised on a farm, only two actually lived and worked in agriculture as adults. If confirmed, Sonny Perdue will be number three.

Gov. Perdue has a proven record of effective governing and dedicated public service. Prior to his time as governor, he was a member of the Georgia State Senate for 10 years, being elected by his colleagues to serve a term as Senate President Pro Tem. As the 81st governor of Georgia, elected in 2002, he enacted meaningful ethics reform and reshaped state government. He engaged business leaders through the Commission for a New Georgia, and by 2010, Georgia was named Best Managed State in the Southeast. Governor Perdue served in 2006-2007 as Chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Given his background of growing up on a diversified row crop and dairy operation in Central Georgia, his service in the United States Air Force, and his background in founding three agribusiness firms supplying services to farmers, Gov. Perdue is eminently qualified to lead USDA. Gov. Perdue was also a practicing veterinarian, and has a deep understanding of the issues important to animal agriculture. As the former governor of a state that produces billions of dollars in food, fiber, specialty crops, nursery crops, dairy products, poultry, and livestock each year, Gov. Perdue understands the critical role of feeding our country and the world. He is also keenly aware of the importance of agriculture in powering our nation's economy, providing jobs from farm to table. Finally, Gov. Perdue has proved to be a dedicated servant of the concerns of rural America with a long history of supporting rural infrastructure, agricultural water use projects, and proper forest management. This experience, along with a personal understanding of the unique needs of rural America, will undoubtedly benefit him as head of USDA.

We appreciate your dedicated leadership to the nation's agricultural community, and look forward to working with you as Gov. Perdue's confirmation moves forward.

Sincerely,
National Association of Federal Veterinarians,
American Veterinary Medical Association
(et. al.)

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Equine 2015 Baseline Reference of Equine Health and Management in the United States

*Cover photograph courtesy of Camilla Kristensen.
USDA APHIS VS*

Items of Note

The Equine 2015 study was conducted in 28 States, which were chosen for participation in the study based, in part, on the size of the States' equine population or the density of the States' equine population. As with past equine studies conducted by USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System, Equine 2015 provides valuable information to study participants, stakeholders, and the equine industry as a whole. Data collected for the study represented 71.6 percent of equids and 70.9 percent of U.S. operations with five or more equids.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service directly captures data on U.S. equine operations during the Census of Agriculture; thus, the list frame used to select participants for the Equine 2015 study was based primarily on information from the 2012 Census of Agriculture. All farms on the list with five or more equids (including horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys) were eligible to be included in the sample. Horses residing at racetracks were not eligible. In total, 3,997 operations were selected for participation

via a stratified random sample. For details, see the Methodology section on page 171.

Approximately 9 of 10 operations (88.9 percent) had 19 or fewer resident equids on May 1, 2015. These operations accounted for 58.1 percent of resident equids in the United States. Resident equids were defined as equids that spent more time at one operation than at any other operation (whether or not they were present on May 1, 2015).

Although large operations (20 or more resident equids) accounted for only 11.1 percent of all operations, they accounted for 41.9 percent of all resident equids. Operations could have had more than one type of resident equid on May 1, 2015. More than 90 percent of operations in each region (see map on p 3) had one or more horses.

A higher percentage of operations in the South Central and Southeast regions (23.7 and 18.8 percent, respectively) had one or more donkeys or burros than operations in the West or Northeast regions (9.2 and 8.9 percent, respectively). Overall, 65.6 percent of resident equids were 5 to 20 years old; this age category

(Continued on Pg. 7, "Equine 2015")

(Continued from Pg. 6, "2015 Equine")

accounted for the highest percentage of all resident equids. Equids 1 year to less than 5 years of age accounted for 16.5 percent of resident equids, and equids 20 years of age or older accounted for 11.4 percent.

Quarter horses accounted for the highest percentage of all resident horse breeds (42.1 percent). This breed also accounted for the highest percentage of resident horses in the West and South Central regions (55.5 and 61.8 percent, respectively). The highest percentage of draft horses was in the Northeast region (15.2 percent of resident horses), and the highest percentage of Tennessee Walkers was in the Southeast region (15.1 percent).

Although equine operations used multiple information sources when making decisions related to equine health care, the majority (70.7 percent) used a private veterinarian as their primary information source in the previous 12 months.

Overall, 78.8 percent of operations had used a veterinarian to provide any service at least once in the previous 12 months; at least 40 percent of operations had used a veterinarian to provide an individual-animal diagnosis, treatment, or surgery; vaccination consultation; administration of vaccines; drugs or vaccines not administered by a veterinarian; dentistry (e.g., floating, filing, or removing teeth); and individual or herd diagnostic services. Over one-fourth of all operations (26.9 percent) used a veterinarian to provide an official health certificate, and 6.2 percent of all operations used a veterinarian to perform a biosecurity assessment.

Overall, 66.7 percent of operations vaccinated any resident equids in the previous 12 months. The percentage of operations that vaccinated any resident equids in the previous 12 months increased as operation size increased.

Overall, 93.4 percent of births in the previous 12 months resulted in a live foal. A higher percentage of foals in the West region (96.8 percent) were born alive compared with foals in the Northeast (90.9 percent) and Southeast (91.5 percent) regions. Deciding to end the life of an equid can be difficult. Gathering information that allows an owner to consider in advance the criteria to use when making the decision to euthanize an equid can be helpful. Overall, more than half of all operations (59.8 percent) had an end-

of-life plan for equids.

Overall, 5.8 percent of resident foals died in the first 30 days following birth; 3.3 percent died in the first 2 days, and another 2.5 percent died from 3 to 30 days following birth. For resident equids less than 1 year



of age, conditions commonly attributed to cause of death were injury, wounds, or trauma (27.8 percent of deaths); digestive problems other than colic, such as diarrhea (17.8 percent); respiratory problems (15.4 percent); and failure to get milk or colostrum (13.2 percent).

For resident equids 1 to less than 20 years of age, conditions commonly attributed to cause of death included colic (31.2 percent of deaths); injury, wounds, or trauma (16.3 percent); and respiratory problems (10.4 percent).

For resident equids 20 years or age or older, conditions commonly attributed to cause of death included "other" (26.6 percent of deaths), colic (13.4 percent), cancer (13.2 percent), neurologic problems (12.1 percent), and chronic weight loss (11.7 percent). The most common "other" specified condition attributed to death was old age.

Operators on 38.8 percent of operations were knowledgeable about equine infectious anemia (EIA), while 18.2 percent recognized the name, not much else, and 7.7 percent said they had not heard of it before. The percentage of operators knowledgeable about EIA was higher on large operations than on small operations (50.8 and 35.8 percent, respectively). Note: The interview question included the following prompt: "EIA is the disease for which the Coggins test is performed."

Overall, 47.1 percent of operations performed at least one EIA test on resident equids in the previous 12 months, and 36.8 percent of resident equids had at least one EIA test in the previous 12 months.

[FULL REPORT](#)

"I've never run across a real problem that went away because people ignored it."

- Charles F. Knight

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Trump,

We write today to bring your attention to an issue of concern for every American: the safety and security of our food production and inspection system. With today's release of the General Accounting Office* (GAO) report, "A National Strategy is Needed to Address Fragmentation in Federal Oversight", we urge you to consider implementing the GAO's recommendations and work with Congress to improve the efficiency, uniformity, integrity, and responsiveness of the food safety system to ensure Americans' continued confidence in the safety of their food.

The safety and quality of the U.S. food supply is governed by a highly complex system that has evolved on a piecemeal basis over many decades, typically in response to either health threats or economic crises. The result is fragmented legal and organizational structure that gives responsibility for specific food commodities to different agencies and provides significantly different authorities to enforce food safety laws. Currently, at least 30 laws are collectively administered by 15 federal agencies. The agencies with primary food safety oversight responsibility are USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FSIS is responsible for the safety of meat, poultry, and processed egg products, and FDA is responsible for virtually all other food.

This fragmented federal food safety system has raised concerns for decades. The GAO has long reported that the system is in need of transformation and has resulted in inconsistent oversight, ineffective coordination, and inefficient use of resources. GAO has included federal oversight of food safety both on its High Risk List since 2007 and in its annual report to Congress, starting in 2011, on federal initiatives that have duplicate goals or activities.

Today's GAO report reinforces the urgent need to improve the food safety inspection system and opportunities to enact meaningful steps toward regulatory reform. We ask that you immediately move to:

1. Establish a National Strategy to address the existing shortcomings in food safety oversight with leadership that can effectively bridge agencies and establish supporting entities to facilitate collaborative work.
2. Create a government-wide performance plan that contains the five core recommendations as detailed by the convened panel of food safety experts including: purpose, leadership, resources, monitoring, and actions.
3. Work with Congress to request any additional statutory authority or budgetary consideration that is required in order to enhance the implementation of the government performance plan.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. We look forward to your action on food safety oversight and working with your Administration to create policies that promote the safety of our food supply and protect public health.

*Actually, the letter should refer to the Government Accountability Office.
(Letter edited for length.)

[READ Full Letter HERE](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/GAO%20Food%20Safety%20Report%20Release%20Letter.pdf)

<http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/GAO%20Food%20Safety%20Report%20Release%20Letter.pdf>

You Aren't Fit to Lead if Your Greatest Strength Is Seeing Weakness

By Dan Rockwell | 02/02/2017

Don't just point out inadequacies, describe what's wrong, and explain disagreements.

- There's no creativity in pointing out weakness.
- There's no imagination in disagreement.
- There's no innovation in explaining what can't be done.
- There's no added value in tearing someone down.

Ineffective leaders find fault like it's the only thing leaders do.

5 things ineffective leaders love to say:

- "I disagree."
- "That won't work."
- "We already tried that."
- "You're wrong."
- "You should be better at...."

The ability to see wrong, point out weakness, highlight mistakes,

and declare deficiencies is important and necessary. But don'ts, won'ts, and can'ts stabilize the past.

Warning: It's safe and powerful for leaders with authority to prevent change, end exploration, and tell people what they can't do.

The future belongs to the curious.

5 things effective leaders love to ask:

- "Have you thought about...?"
- Offer alternatives when you disagree.
- "What if...?"
- "How about...?" Have the courage to make something better, rather than simply pointing out inadequacy.
- "You're great at" How can you bring your strengths to this challenge? The future depends on the strengths of the people around the table.
- "How might we make this bet-

ter?"

- "What are we trying to achieve and why does it matter?"

When you're ready to point out a fault, ask yourself, "What are we trying to accomplish?"

The power of imperfection:

- The pursuit of excellence is a pursuit. In other words, you always fall short.
- Develop imperfect solutions. 80% is good enough for most things.
- Launch early.
- Test often.
- Adapt as you go.

3 tips:

- Notice three strengths for every weakness you point out.
- Say what you see when you see progress.
- Leverage positive energy. Figure out how to apply energy to positive outcomes.

Escherichia coli O157:H7 Infections Associated with Contaminated Pork Products — Alberta, Canada, July–October 2014 Weekly / January 6, 2017 / 65(52);1477–1481

Summary

What is already known about this topic?

Pork is a known, although infrequent, source of human *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 infection. *E. coli* O157:H7 infections often result in clinically severe illness with serious complications in humans.

What is added by this report?

During July–October 2014, an outbreak of 119 cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections associated with exposure to contaminated pork products occurred in Alberta, Canada. *E. coli* O157:H7-contaminated pork and pork production environments and mishandling of pork products were identified at all key points in the implicated pork distribution chain. Measures to control the outbreak included product recalls, destruction of pork products, temporary food facility closures, targeted interventions to mitigate improper pork-handling practices, and prosecution of a food facility operator.

What are the implications for public health practice?

Pork should be considered in public health *E. coli* O157:H7 investigations and prevention messaging, and pork handling and cooking practices should be carefully assessed during regulatory food facility inspections.

Note from the Federal Veterinarian Editor: "However, the originating source or sources of the contamination were not identified. Cross-contamination appears to be an important contributing factor in this outbreak, as evidenced by absence of known pork exposure in 35% of outbreak cases."

New OIE Web Portal on Avian Influenza

Source World Organization for Animal Health \ 12/21/2016

Gaining a better understanding of the disease, providing easy access to the OIE's recommendations on how to control it, and raising awareness of the global avian influenza situation among the international community: these are the objectives of the new OIE's web portal on avian influenza. In the last few months, outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have affected a number of countries in most regions of the world. These events have led to the deaths or preventative culling of hundreds of thousands of birds. The recent global upsurge in this disease reinforces the importance of information-sharing about the disease prevention and control methods that should be put in place locally, as well as the recommendations and actions taken by the OIE at the international level.

Avian influenza is a complex disease, with outbreaks in poultry having a severe impact on people's livelihoods and international trade in many countries. Although most avian influenza viruses do not affect humans, some, such as H5N1 and H7N9, are well known to the public, as a result of the serious and sometimes fatal infections that they can cause in humans.

The new OIE portal on avian influenza brings together a wealth of information, enabling a greater understanding of the disease and detailing the biosecurity measures recommended by the OIE, at both the farm and trade level, to halt its spread.

Moreover, this platform describes the actions taken by the OIE and its partners. Indeed, the prevention and control of zoonotic influenzas is one of the three priorities of the FAO–OIE–WHO Tripartite



Alliance. A dedicated page also provides access to communication tools targeted at various audiences.

During recent months, the avian influenza strain H5N8, in particular, has been in the news, having been successively identified in several regions of the world, particularly Europe and America, as well as Asia and the Middle-East. The new OIE portal allows us to follow this strain's global evolution (and that of other H5 and H7 strains), in real time.

In addition, it is worth noting that OFFLU, the global network of expertise on animal influenza, created and maintained by the OIE and FAO, recently published a report on the H5N8 situation, as well as advice on surveillance. This global scientific network works to reduce the adverse consequences caused by animal influenza viruses by promoting effective collaboration and information-sharing between animal health experts and the human health sector.

More information on this network, and on the H5N8 strain of the virus in particular, are available on the portal.

Original Article: <http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/new-oie-web-portal-on-avian-influenza/>

DPP Test Kits for Tuberculosis Temporarily Unavailable

Source: APHIS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa has depleted its supply of ChemBio DPP kits to test for tuberculosis (TB) in cervids. The manufacturer predicts that production of DPP test kits will resume no earlier than April 2017.

Serum samples can still be submitted to NVSL, but they will be

frozen and tested once the kits are available again. Frozen samples will be tested in order, based on the date the samples were received at NVSL.

If testing is needed for immediate movement, accredited veterinarians may conduct official single cervical skin tests. Serum samples for herd reaccreditation can still be submitted to NVSL, but they will be frozen and tested once the kits are available. The date that the sample is received at NVSL will

be the date used for accreditation purposes—not the date that the DPP test is actually performed.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Questions about submitted samples may be directed to Dr. David Kinker, with NVSL, at [515-337-7563](tel:515-337-7563). For questions about cervid TB testing related to herd reaccreditation or movement, please contact Dr. Nancy Hannaway, with APHIS' Veterinary Services Cervid Health Team, at 970-494-7585.

Could You Be the Next Target or Example?

What would you do with \$20,000, \$50,000, or \$100,000? The answer to this question is probably pretty similar amongst most readers...pay bills, go on vacation, buy a big boat and name it. Now imagine, that you just got a phone call that an allegation has been made against you by a plant worker. You know who made the allegation, you know it's untrue, you don't worry, you've had nothing but outstanding ratings, you think about vacation. A few weeks later, however, you are notified that you are now the subject of an IG investigation and that you might want to contact an attorney. After a few more months and interviews, your attorney advises that your agency has made the decision to move forward with your removal. You are stunned, truly shocked – you thought you presented all the evidence to prove the initial complaint was baseless and that your actions were consistent with past practices at the facility. Your attorney is still on the phone, he's telling you that it will cost a *minimum* (emphasis added) of \$50,000 to appeal and litigate your removal before the Merit Systems Protection Board – and in addition to catching up on the attorney fees you already owe, you're going to need to make a \$5,000 payment immediately to start the appeal process. He feels confident that you will win on appeal, but needs the balance and \$5,000 paid before he can proceed. Your head is spinning, you're in disbelief, you can't believe this is happening to you...of all people...and don't know how to come up with this kind of money. Who do you ask? How much will you need? Do you have to mortgage the house to carry this case all the way through? Maybe...it's time to retire...but how is that even possible, you haven't even started paying for college yet.

Now...take a deep breath, and imagine that you got this same phone call from your agency but you had the foresight to purchase a professional liability insurance policy. You call your attorney who is a partner at [Shaw, Bransford & Roth](#). He is knowledgeable and tenacious and has over 30 years of experience defending federal employees. He tells you that based on the allegations and his experience that this may go all the way up to the MSPB but, not to worry, he'll send your legal bills to FEDS and start working on your defense. After 2 long years, your case finally goes to the MSPB. You win your appeal. You thank him and ask what it would've cost if you didn't have FEDS Protection in place, he tells you his fee is \$400 per hour and that your case cost \$180,000 which is pretty standard for an MSPB appeal. You realize, at that moment, that the \$290 you paid for a full year of FEDS Protection, was the best

investment you ever made. While that 2 years wasn't without stress and worry, you were able to sleep a little easier because you had a great attorney and didn't have to figure out how to pay him for your defense.



For many people, the biggest obstacle to purchasing professional liability insurance is a sense of disbelief that they will ever face an allegation; or need an attorney to defend a work-related act, error or omission; or that an allegation known to be frivolous or untrue, will go away without the need to ever hire an attorney. **The reality is...in today's federal community, federal employees are targeted for various reasons, or used to make examples or as political pawns, and if it happens to be you, it is a nuisance if it's a small case, or completely overwhelming if it's a large one.** While our scenario was based on an actual, but untrue, complaint leading to an investigation and removal, there are countless situations where employees did make mistakes, and wrongdoing was clear.

For years now, in articles and other communications via NAFV, we've provided numerous examples of federal veterinarians requiring the need for legal counsel. If a situation arises, NAFV can and will advise you, but they cannot be your legal representative. AVMA insurance DOES NOT COVER adverse personnel action in federal employment. It is because of these calls from members, and the NAFV's experience with FEDS and knowledge of claims, that they recommend PLI for members and exclusively endorse FEDS Protection. The cost of the coverage is \$280 (with discount code: NAFV) for the \$1,000,000 policy. Some veterinarians are eligible for agency reimbursement up to half the cost of this insurance for a net premium of \$140 per year. All employees are eligible for payroll deduction, regardless of reimbursement eligibility. Additionally, some members are eligible for up to 50% agency reimbursement for liability insurance (all managers and supervisors are eligible upon application to the agency).

Attorneys are expensive, liability insurance is cheap. If you have questions or would like to enroll – it only takes 5 minutes - call FEDS at 866.955.FEDS or enroll online at www.fedsprotection.com.

Federal Veterinarians Protect and Improve Public and Animal Health and Welfare

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

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

(Information will be available next month)

USDA APHIS Members

Dr. Ronald Brock, Retirement, Elkhart, IN 09/30/2016
Dr. Robert Brady, Retirement, Sutton, MA 09/30/2016
Dr. James Amend, Retirement, Austin, TX 12/23/2016
Dr. Richard Bertz, Retirement, St. Cloud, WI 12/31/2016
Dr. Roger Brannian, Retirement, Ames, IA 12/31/2016
Dr. Rita Kester, Retirement, Nogales, AZ 12/31/2016
Dr. Christopher Robinson Jr., Retirement, Riverdale, MD 01/03/2017
Dr. Mary Tinker, Retirement, Boise, ID 01/31/2017

Periodicals postage paid
at Washington, DC

Welcome New Members

Dr. Sarah B. Patillo, GS - 12, FSIS, AUB '09, Lafayette, AL
Dr. Thomas Catanzaro, LTC, Retired, CSU '74, Lakewood, CO (Recommended by J. Poppe)
Dr. Megan Uitvlugt, GS - 12, FSIS, MSU '14, Hattiesburg, MS (Recommended by J. Fuller)
Dr. William Lanier, O - 5, USPHS, ILL '05, Bountiful, UT
Dr. Joseph Callicutt, GS - 12, FSIS, AUB '75, Brandon, MS (Recommended by R. Kennedy)
Dr. Netia Abercrombie, GS - 12, APHIS, CSU '09, Conroe, TX
Dr. Linda Buss, GS - 12, FSIS, CSU '05, Alma, AR
Dr. Susan Prattis, GS - 12, FSIS, UP '85, West Des Moines, IA
Dr. Erica Ofeldt, GS - 11, FSIS, ROS '16, Towson, MD
Dr. Leo Gayheart, GS - 12, FSIS, AUB '79, Waco, KY (Recommended by R. Murphy)
Dr. Jennifer May, GS - 12, FSIS, PUR '96, Logansport, IN
Dr. Misha Robyn, CDC, TUF '09, Decatur, GA

Email Changes of Address to:

mbarros@nafv.org

Returned Checks NAFV charges

\$10.00 for checks returned for

Insufficient funds