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# FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### REMINDER:

NAFV elections are coming up this July! Nominations are still being accepted for the following positions:

- President-Elect,
- Secretary/  
Treasurer,
- 3 FSIS BOD Reps & 3 Alternates
- 2 APHIS BOD Reps & 2 Alternates
- 1 "Other" Agency Rep & 1 Alternate
- 1 Military Rep & 1 Alternate

NAFV members can contact the national office and ask to be considered by the nomination committee for the position they wish to be considered for.

The election committee can also approach NAFV members and select nominees they believe would be suitable candidates.

[nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org)

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## NAFV: A Century of Service - Looking Back on the First 100 Years

# THE FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

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## Highlights in the History of a Proud Service

Federal Veterinarians can be justly proud of reaching an impressive milestone on May 29 this year (1960). You can be proud of the high tradition of public service maintained through 76 years of veterinary medical research and regulatory programs.

It was on May 29, 1884, that President Chester A. Arthur signed legislation enacted by the Congress creating the first Federal program to combat animal diseases. At that time a small veterinary medical division was already operating within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but in a sense this act created the Federal Veterinarian as we know him today.

Creation of the Bureau of Animal Industry was an event of great importance to the well being of this country. The Agricultural Research Service is proud to carry on its veterinary medical programs in the tradition of the Old Bureau.

The veterinary medical profession outside of governmental service does an effective job of keeping pace with new problems in animal disease. But some problems in research and in

disease control and eradication defy solution by the individual livestock producer and the practicing veterinarian. These problems require the concentrated efforts of so many people, scattered over wide areas, working together toward a common objective. Thus, they fall naturally into the public domain. Also, the Federal government is required by law to provide the meat inspection service that has set the standard throughout the world for clean, wholesome meat and meat products. Now the poultry products inspection service is following in its footsteps.

So, for the three-quarters of a century the veterinary medical profession has supplied the manpower to fill these public needs, to aid in protecting the nation's food supply and the health of our people and our livestock. The method of protection has evolved into the two-part system of research and regulatory programs. Research develops the knowledge we need. This knowledge is then used (1) to develop active programs to control and eradicate

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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.

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(Continued from Pg. 1, "NAFV History")

animal diseases; (2) to intercept animal pests and diseases that might inadvertently be brought from foreign lands across our borders or through our ports of entry; (3) to set specific standards that assure the livestock industry a stable supply of effective veterinary biologics; and (4) to support the meat inspection service with the latest and best knowledge to safeguard the wholesomeness of the consumer's supply of meat.

We need only to look at the history and tradition of public veterinary medical service to see the contribution of this two-part system to our national welfare:

... *Pleuropneumonia* eradicated in 1892. The first animal disease to be wiped out by a Federal State cooperative program and set the pattern for all future eradication programs.

... *Disease spread by insects* first announced in 1893 when the cattle tick was identified as the carrier of "Texas fever". This discovery led to effective controls for malaria, yellow fever, and other human health problems involving insect vectors.

... *Modern meat inspection* established in 1906 to assure clean and wholesome meat products for the nation.

... *Cattle tick fever* eradication program begun in 1906 and later successfully concluded to save the cattle industry of the South.

... *Hog cholera serum* first used to successfully in 1907 to begin the control of the disease that had threatened to wipe out large segments of the swine

industry.

... *Virus-serum control* created in 1913 to assure useful veterinary biologics for livestock.

... *Pollorum disease tests* developed in 1929 helped to reduce heavy losses in poultry.

... *Foot-and-mouth* disease eradicated for the sixth time since 1900 in the United States in 1930 -- no additional outbreaks have occurred.

... *Brucellosis* eradication begun in 1934. Today 24 States in modified-certified brucellosis status -- one State entirely free.

... *Phenothiazine* first used in 1938 to remove internal parasites of livestock.

... *Artificial breeding* association for dairy cattle first organized in 1939.

... *Bovine tuberculosis* reduced to less than half of on percent throughout the United States in 1940. Incidence increasing later as a result of wartime manpower shortage, reduction in testing programs, and concentrating of effort on other diseases.

... *Foot-and-mouth disease* eradication campaign begun in cooperation with Mexican government in 1947 and later successfully concluded to protect livestock of both countries.

... *Hyperkeratosis* cause discovered to be highly chlorinated naphthalenes in 1952, thus enabling the necessary precautions to be taken to control the disease and drastically cut the \$2 to \$4 million in losses every year.

... *Scrapie* eradication begun in 1952.

... *Foot-and-mouth disease* virus

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grown by improved tissue culture methods -- virus photographed through electron microscope -- at Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory -- 1954-1957.

... *Vesicular exanthema* eradicated in 1959 after spreading widely through the swine populations of 42 States.

These are merely highlights in the history of a proud service. Many veterinarians in the Agricultural Research Service today have played a part in shaping that history. Young veterinarians just beginning a career in public service have an inspiring heritage from the past and a challenge for the future.

In recent years ahead veterinary medical science will be hard-pressed to keep up with increasing animal health problems. All indications point to a rapidly increasing population demanding larger and larger quantities of meat and other animal products. As livestock numbers are increased to fill these demands, health and management problems can be expected to mushroom.

We are already living with diseases that take a heavy economic toll every year: Shipping fever complex, mucosal disease complex, mastitis, hog cholera, leptospirosis, anthrax, anaplasmosis, respiratory diseases of poultry, and many others. Each of these disease takes its yearly toll.

Research in veterinary medicine is faced with the responsibility of developing sufficient knowledge about such diseases to provide the means of control. That knowledge can then be ap-

plied by the practitioner and through active regulatory programs to help reduce the \$2 billion that animal pests and diseases already cost the nation every year.

Public service research in veterinary medicine is aimed toward these objectives. The National animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, IA is expected to be ready for use by the end of 1960. These new facilities will provide the most up-to-date equipment available for the study of domestic diseases. The Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory for research on foreign diseases is attracting highly trained scientists because the specialized facilities permit challenging, complex, research studies that could not be conducted in less modern laboratories.

At these and other instructions, pioneering research will be broadening and deepening the store of fundamental knowledge of veterinary medicine basic to an understanding of animal health. We are truly on the threshold of a new word for research as modern scientific techniques are put to wider and wider use.

The opportunities for the veterinarian in Federal service now and in the future are greater than ever before. If the record of the past 76 years is impressive, the possibility of new and vital achievements in the future should be an even greater challenge to all veterinarians in public service.

*Dr. M. R. Clarkson, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, USDA*

## NAFV EVP Column

### Greetings from Dr. Marvin Meinders

by *Marvin Meinders, DVM, MPVM*



Although I have served in the Federal government in some capacity for approximately 35 years and been a member of NAFV since 2010, most of you all probably do not know me. So, in my first EVP column article, I would like to give you some insight about me – outside of the formalities that were featured in the article

published in our April newsletter that highlighted the positions I have held. At the writing of this article, I have been with the National Association of Federal Veterinarians as the Executive Vice President for three weeks and am still very much in the “getting to know my way around” phase. However, two things have significantly stood out in my brief time here.

First of all, I would like to state what a privilege it is for me to have the opportunity to work with Federal Veterinarians. I have worked with a lot of medical professionals over my years, not only in the Federal government but also in private industry. It has not

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

only been an observation, but it has also been my personal experience, that the veterinarian has the best overall medical education. This became evident to me back when I worked for 10 years on a human international pharmaceutical database to classify adverse events in both clinical trials and post marketing data. Daily, I worked alongside physicians and nurses who would frequently ask what a veterinarian was doing there. After a few years, I was appointed as the lead for the maintenance and management of this international database. Even though each of us had our strong areas, it became obvious that I had the best overall view, often referred to as a One Health view, since human diseases that are not commonly seen in developed countries such as some parasitic and infectious diseases today, may be much more common in one of the species that we as veterinarians see frequently.

The second point is that Federal Veterinarians are in a high impact field with a lot of responsibility. A decision made by a Federal Veterinarian may very well impact multiple states, nationwide, and possibly even internationally. As an example, at import, if an

animal or animal product with a foreign animal disease is not stopped at that point, a devastating disease such as Foot and Mouth Disease could rapidly spread throughout the US and bring disaster to our agriculture industry and the US economy as a whole. Also, Federal veterinary efforts prevent foodborne outbreaks which with current food distribution system frequently involve multiple states. Potentially, one decision made by a Federal Veterinarian may have more impact on our nation than many non-Federal veterinarians have in all their career.

You can see that the Federal Veterinarian is a part of an elite group of veterinarians making significant contributions to our country. I am certainly proud to have been a Federal veterinarian for 35 years of my career, and that today through the NAFV, I can still be your colleague.

I hope you all feel free to reach out to the National Office with any questions you might have for me. I look forward to continuing this tradition of serving the federal veterinary profession and managing our organization through the beginning of its second century.

## Before NAFV: National Association of the Bureau of Animal Industry

by **Michael J. Gilsdorf, DVM**

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) was originally formed under the name of the National Association of the Bureau of Animal Industry Veterinarians (NABAI) in 1918 and celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It might be asked, why was the NAFV formed? To better understand the answer, it requires a look at the history of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was formed in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln and celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. The BAI was created within USDA when President Chester A. Arthur signed the Animal Industry Act on May 29, 1884. Congress created the Bureau to promote livestock disease research, enforce animal import regulations, regulate the interstate movement of animals, and prevent diseased animals from being used as food.

The early focus of the BAI was to prevent the entry of animal diseases and to eradicate the most damaging, most communicable livestock diseases present in the United States (US). The BAI, under the leadership of Dr. Daniel E. Salmon, eradicated contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia in a little more than eight years (1879). The US has had nine FMD outbreaks since it was first recognized on the northeastern coast in 1870; the most devastating happened in 1914. The BAI eradicated each outbreak.

The passage of the Pendleton Act in 1883 contained three fundamental merit principles: fair and open competition for federal jobs, admission to the competitive service only on the basis of neutral examination, and protection of those in the service from political influence and coercion. However, only 10 percent of the federal



work force at that time was covered by the initial legislation. Congress granted the President authority to add federal employees to the merit system as he saw fit. Federal veterinarians were not covered.

On August 30, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed the first law that required the BAI to inspect salted pork and bacon intended for exportation. In 1891, this law was amended to require the inspection and certification of all live cattle and beef intended for

(Continued of Pg. 5, "NABAI")

## Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine

The University of California, Davis welcomes applications for the Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) Program in the School of Veterinary Medicine. The MPVM is a 1-2 year graduate professional master degree open to veterinarians and other medical professionals. Since 1967, the 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.

Our modernized MPVM curriculum offers core courses in epidemiology concepts, study design, research, leadership, ecosystem health, and infectious disease epidemiology as well as statistics. Elective options allow students to explore zoonotic disease, food safety, diagnostic test evaluation, spatial analysis, mathematical modeling, disease ecology, and many more. Coursework in 'One Health' is available for students interested in public health and conservation at the interface of human-animal interaction. In addition to didactic instruction, students write a thesis on research they undertake during the course of the program. We support our extensive course offerings and student research with a large, diverse, vibrant faculty including new hires in epidemiology, wild life, food animals and poultry health, and a wealth of adjunct contributors from state and federal management agencies and organizations. Instruction commences in early August each year.

Requirements for entry into the program include a minimum 3.0 GPA, as well as a TOEFL score of 85 or higher for non-English speakers. The application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> each calendar year. Interested applicants can learn more about admission requirements and explore financial aid options at <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/mpvm/admission/admissioninfo.com>

Send inquiries to the MPVM Coordinator, Tami Ali ([tali@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tali@ucdavis.edu)); or the MPVM Chair, Dr. Ashley Hill ([ahill@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ahill@ucdavis.edu)).



(Continued from Pg. 4, "NABAI")  
exportation.

In 1906, Congress passed the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the BAI was assigned the task of enforcing food safety regulatory requirements. Following passage of the 1906 Act, BAI's Meat Inspection Division hired more than 1,300 inspectors (veterinarians and lay inspectors) to work at 163 establishments. In 1907, the number employed by BAI was more than 2,200 inspectors at close to 700 establishments. In 1910, the Meat Inspection Division established a research center in Beltsville, Maryland. Seven similar laboratories were later created throughout the country. These laboratories were responsible both for developing new testing methods and testing meat and meat products for foreign substances.

Dr. Salmon was the first chief/director of the BAI from 1885 to 1905. He was also serving as president of the United States Veterinary Medical Association (USVMA) when it changed its name to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) at the annual meeting in September

1898. So there was a close association between the BAI and AVMA in those years. However, federally employed veterinarians were looking for recognition as professionals. They were also looking for assistance from professional bodies and organizations with legislative employment matters affecting them, such as the reclassification bill affecting salaries and benefits of federal employees.

Other pertinent issues for them were retirement, leave, and overtime pay because there was no uniformity. These were not issues the AVMA could focus on because of the variety of other issues they were dealing with. Therefore, the NABAIV was formed and it was also organized in five zones with a Vice President over each zone. The founders not only focused on personnel issues, they also devoted time discussing improvements to their programs. Since most of the BAI veterinary leaders were also NABAIV members, they incorporated the best ideas discussed at the NABAIV annual meetings in conjunction with the AVMA and USAHA meetings.

Membership was an important

issue when NABAIV originated. The February 23, 1923 newsletter contained the names of every federally employed veterinarian in the BAI at that time and also identified who were members. It was their goal to have 100% of the BAI veterinarians as members. The association was well-liked by USDA leaders. The BAI had them as speakers at their annual conventions. Dr. J.R. Mohler became the chief of the BAI in 1917. He spoke at the NABAIV annual meeting in 1922 and described the issues they were facing at that time.

The Secretary of Agriculture also sent a letter telling the NABAIV veterinarians he was very interested in the work of the BAI and felt the nation was fortunate to have such a great body of loyal and efficient workers constantly on guard against disease and impurities in the meat supply.

More history of the NAFV will be provided in future articles.

**Associate members: Do you have any memories and/or photos to share? We are looking for both for a special interactive timeline. Please send to [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org)!**

## World Organization for Animal Health Second Report - Director General's Foreword

### Executive Summary

This second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals gives the first ever glimpse into the global use of antimicrobial agents adjusted for animal biomass for 2014, and presents the overall findings of the second annual data collection on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals, providing a global and regional analysis from 2013 to 2016.

The template used to collect data was designed to allow all countries to participate, regardless of whether a national data collection system currently exists. In 2016, the second phase of data collection, completed templates were submitted by 143 OIE Member Countries (79% of 180 Member Countries) and 3 non-OIE Member Countries. This indicates progress since the first phase of data collection, whereby 130 Member Countries submitted completed templates.

New in the second phase of data collection, countries were asked to provide information on the barriers faced in reporting quantitative data on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals. Thirty-eight countries explained their barriers, reporting primarily a lack of regulatory framework, and lack of cooperation between national authorities and with the private sector. Eight countries reported that data were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services and therefore could not be accessed for the purpose of the template, most often, by the country's Ministry of Health.

For the responses on the authorisation of antimicrobial agents as growth promoters, a total of 86 out of 146 (59%) responding countries did not authorise any antimicrobial agents for growth promotion in animals in their countries as of 2016. The 60 remaining countries (41%) reported use of antimicrobials for growth promotion, either with direct authorisation of some compounds, or because the country had no regulatory framework on this issue.

One hundred-seven countries of 146 (73%) reported quantitative data for one or more years between 2013 to 2016, an increase compared to the 89 countries providing quantitative data in the first phase. Sources of these data varied among OIE Regions, and were most commonly sales and imports.

New in this report, the first global calculations of animal biomass allowed for an analysis of antimicrobial quantities reported adjusted by a denominator. Animal biomass is calculated as the total weight of the live domestic animals in a given population, used

as a proxy to represent those likely exposed to the quantities of antimicrobial agents reported. Animal biomass was therefore calculated for food-producing species of countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). 2014 was the target year of this second phase of data collection, and had the highest number of submissions of quantitative data. From the 60 countries included in the 2014 analysis, the estimated coverage of total animal biomass from four OIE Regions is 47%.

The results of this analysis are presented globally and by OIE Region. The global estimate of antimicrobial agents used in animals in 2014 adjusted for animal biomass, as represented by the quantitative data reported to the OIE from 60 countries during the first two phases of data collection, was 98.97 mg/kg. An approach for an upper level estimate of 134.31 mg/kg was made adjusting by country-level estimates of how much data on antimicrobial agents used in animals they covered in 2014.

As a result of the many challenges that we now know countries face as they advance towards quantitative data collection on antimicrobial use in animals, the OIE advises caution in interpretation and use of quantitative data presented in this report. The report transparently describes the reasons for uncertainty associated with both the complex and simple estimates presented. Limitations of this analysis include quantitative data source errors which may lead to overcounting of antimicrobial amounts by some countries new to the process of data collection.

The OIE remains strongly committed to supporting our Members in developing robust measurement and transparent reporting mechanisms for antimicrobial use, but the challenges for many of our Members must not be under-estimated. Concurrent to engagement with countries to improve these data, the methodology for calculating animal biomass will be refined. While data collection systems further develop, this annual report will provide an essential global and regional analysis of antibiotic use in animals, and changes over time.

OIE Annual report on antimicrobial agents  
intended for use in animals

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL SITUATION



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## Secretary Perdue Applauds President Trump’s Selection for USDA’s Under Secretary for Food Safety

**Source: USDA | 05/04/18**

**(Washington, D.C., May 4, 2018)** – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today applauded President Donald J. Trump’s selection of Dr. Mindy Brashears to be the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Under Secretary for Food Safety. After the announcement, Secretary Perdue issued the following statement:

(...)

“Food safety is at the core of USDA’s mission, because it directly affects the health and well-being of millions of Americans every day. President Trump has made an excellent choice in Dr. Mindy Brashears, and I am excited to have her join the team. Dr. Brashears has spent decades finding ways to improve food safety standards through innovation, invention, and leadership on research missions across the globe. I look forward to her bringing that wealth of expertise and track record of results here to USDA.”

“In the meantime, we still have qualified people in addition to Dr. Brashears awaiting confirmation to fill key roles at USDA. I urge the Senate take up all of our nominations as quickly as possible.”

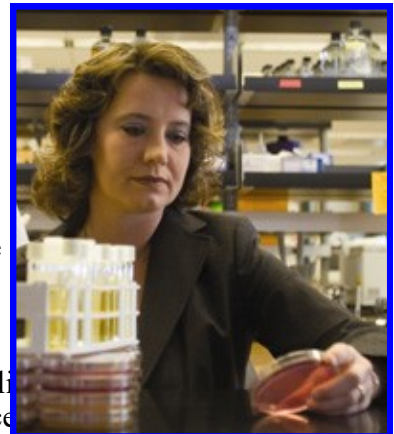
**Background:**

Dr. Brashears is a Professor of Food Safety and Public Health and the Director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University. Dr. Brashears’ research program focuses on improving food safety standards to make an im-

pact on public health. Her highly acclaimed work evaluates interventions in pre-and post-harvest environments and on the emergence of anti-microbial drug resistance in animal feeding systems.

These efforts have resulted in commercial additive that can reduce cattle. She also leads international research teams to Mexico, Central and South America to improve food safety and security and to set up sustainable agriculture systems in impoverished areas. She is past-Chair of the National Alliance for Food Safety and Security and of the USDA multi-state research group.

Original Article: <https://bit.ly/2IruXZ1>



**Pictured: Dr. M. M. Brashears**  
Picture source: Texas Tech University

**Interested in volunteering with NAFV?**

**NAFV is currently looking regional coordinators. NAFV coordinators are the on-the-ground force aiding the National Office in membership support, Chapter meetings, and CE events. NAFV Coordinators are also play and integral role in gathering consultation issues and coming up with solutions for leadership.**

## Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - Protracted Outbreak of Salmonella Newport Infections Linked to Ground Beef: Possible Role of Dairy Cows — 21 States, 2016–2017

**Source:** CDC | 04/20/2018

In January 2017, CDC identified a cluster of Salmonella enterica serotype Newport infections with isolates sharing an indistinguishable pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern, JJPX01.0010 (pattern 10), through PulseNet, the national molecular subtyping network for foodborne disease surveillance. This report summarizes the investigation by CDC, state and local health and agriculture departments, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) and discusses the possible role of dairy cows as a reservoir for strains of Salmonella that persistently cause human illness. This investigation combined epidemiologic and whole genome sequencing (WGS) data to link the outbreak to contaminated ground beef; dairy cows were hypothesized to be the ultimate source of Salmonella contamination.

### What is already known about this topic?

Previous outbreaks of salmonellosis were linked to contaminated ground beef produced from slaughtered dairy cows.

### What is added by this report?

Contaminated ground beef was the likely source of a protracted outbreak of

106 Salmonella Newport infections, 42 hospitalizations, and one death in 21 states during October 2016–July 2017. While no direct link was found, whole genome sequencing suggests dairy cows were the ultimate outbreak source.

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

Foodborne outbreak investigations could be enhanced by improvements in the traceability of

cows from their originating farms or sale barns, through slaughter and processing establishments, to ground beef sold to consumers.

### Epidemiologic Investigation

A case was defined as infection with Salmonella Newport with PFGE pattern 10 closely related to the outbreak strain by WGS, with bacterial isolation during October 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017. A total of 106 cases were identified in 21 states (Figure 1). Most illnesses ([72%]) were reported from southwestern states, including Arizona (30), California (25), New Mexico (14), and Texas (seven). Illness onset dates ranged from October 4, 2016, through July 19, 2017 (Figure 2). Patients ranged in age from <1–88 years (median = 44 years), and 53 (50%) were female. Among 88 (83%) patients with known outcomes, 42 (48%) were hospitalized, and one died.

Initial interviews identified consumption of ground beef as a common exposure among patients. A focused questionnaire was developed to collect detailed information on ground beef exposure and to obtain shopper card information and receipts. Among 65 interviewed patients, 52 (80%) reported eating ground beef at home in the week before illness began. This percentage was significantly higher than the 2006–2007 FoodNet Population Survey, in which 40% of healthy persons reported eating ground beef at home in the week before they were interviewed ( $p < 0.001$ ) (1). Among the 52 patients who ate ground beef at home, 31 (60%) reported that they bought it or maybe bought it from multiple locations of two national grocery chains, and 21 (40%) reported that they bought ground

beef from locations of 15 other grocery chains. Specific ground beef information was available for 35 patients. Among these, 15 (43%) purchased ground beef as chubs (rolls) of varying sizes (range = 2–10 lbs), 18 purchased it on a tray wrapped in plastic, and two purchased preformed hamburger patties. Twenty-nine patients reported that they bought fresh ground beef, four bought frozen ground beef, and four did not recall whether it was fresh or frozen when purchased. When asked about ground beef preparation, 12 (36%) of 33 patients reported that they definitely or possibly undercooked it.

### Traceback Investigation

USDA-FSIS conducted traceback on ground beef purchased within 3 months of illness onset for 11 patients who provided shopper card records or receipts. Approximately 20 ground beef suppliers belonging to at least 10 corporations were identified; 10 of the 11 records traced back to five company A slaughter/processing establishments, seven of 11 traced back to five company B slaughter/processing establishments, and four of 11 traced back to two company C slaughter/processing establishments.

### Public Health Response

Because the USDA-FSIS traceback investigation did not converge on a common production lot of ground beef or a single slaughter/processing establishment, and no ground beef in the original packaging yielded the outbreak strain, a recall of specific product was not requested. A public warning was not issued to consumers because specific, actionable information was not available (e.g., a

*(Continued on Pg. 9, "MMWR...")*



(Continued from Pg. 8, "MMWR...")

specific brand or type of ground beef). Officials in New Mexico visited the dairy farm that was the source of the cow at the Texas establishment and noted no concerns

about conditions or practices. However, this visit occurred late in the investigation, and conditions at the time of the visit might not have represented those present immediately before and during the outbreak. No samples from the envi-

ronment or cows were collected during this visit.

This article has been edited for length. Full article available at: <https://bit.ly/2kAcoHJ>

## COORDINATOR CORNER: NAFV Coordinators at Work!

### ILLINOIS: Dr. Lynne White-Shim

In late February, several APHIS Animal Care veterinarians met over lunch during a New Inspector Training course in Kansas City to discuss NAFV's recent activities. There were new Veterinary Medical Officers present for the discussion, as well as senior Animal Care veterinarians who were in Kansas City to help train the new veterinarians. The Coordinator for Animal Care in Illinois, Dr. Lynne White-Shim, provided an overview of NAFV's mission and leadership, and shared updates regarding NAFV's advocacy to preserve loan forgiveness opportunities and federal benefits, and to implement specialty pay, among other efforts. The group also learned about NAFV's upcoming continuing education opportunities.

### IOWA: Dr. Linda Schlater

Dr. Linda Schlater presented a NAFV legislative update at an FSIS Training Event in Des Moines, IA on Tuesday, May 8. The attendees were composed of both NAFV members and non-members. The audience was very enthusiastic and engaging with many questions. Dr. Schlater provided a summary of current legislation affecting federal veterinarians and attendees seemed especially concerned with the proposed legislation that would affect their retirement.

### ATLANTA: Dr. Angela McIntyre with help from special coordinator Dr. Danielle Tack

On Saturday, May 12, NAFV sponsored an opportunity for Federal Veterinarians to gain 6 hours of CE points in a panel lecture titled Multi-Agency Veterinary Approach to Public Health Programs. Veterinarians from the different federal agencies including APHIS, FSIS, CDC, and the State of GA spoke on different areas and of federal and public veterinary practice, along with their specific issues and methodology used to address such. The CE event was held at the DeKalb County Library in Decatur, GA.

Speakers include David Swayne, DVM PhD; Carmen Arriola, DVM, MHS, PhD; Venessa Simms, MEP; Renee Funk, DVM, MPH&TM, MBA, DACVPM; Megan Nichols, DVM, MPH, DACVPM; Rick Meinersman, DVM; Maria E. Negron Sureda, DVM, PhD, MS; Erin Howey, DVM, ACVP, PhD; and Krista Surles, DVM, MPH.

## CALL FOR NAFV CONSULTATION TOPICS!

NAFV Members, we are currently gathering topics for our Consultations and Intra-management meetings with APHIS and FSIS leadership.

As the voice for Federal Veterinarians, and with the authority from 5 CFR 251.201, NAFV gathers topics from membership relating to improvement of managerial effectiveness and the working conditions of supervisors and managers, as well as the identification and resolution of problems affecting agency operations and employees, including supervisors and managers.

We are asking members to send us your thoughts and recommendations on issues you have experienced or observed so that we can try to incorporate them into our next meeting. please include your personal email address and cell phone number. Please submit consultation topics to [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org) or the mail to address on pg. 2.

## NOTICE: APHIS Announces Two National Poultry Improvement Plan Items

### Source: APHIS GovDelivery Bulletins

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing two items related to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). NPIP is a cooperative Federal-State-Industry program for controlling certain poultry diseases.

The next NPIP General Conference Committee and Biennial Conference will be held this summer in Franklin, Tennessee. The General Conference Committee meeting will be held on June 26, 2018, with the general session on June 27 – 28. Registration and hotel information can be found here. Topics to be discussed at the meeting include:

- NPIP approval of new diag-

nostic tests

- Salmonella update
- National Veterinary Services Laboratories avian influenza update
- Mycoplasma update.

The meeting will be open to the public; however, public participation in discussions during the sessions will only be allowed if time permits. Written statements may be filed at the meeting or filed with the Committee before or after the meeting by contacting Dr.

Denise Heard

at [Denise.L.Heard@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Denise.L.Heard@aphis.usda.gov).

APHIS is also proposing updates to its NPIP regulations, as voted on and approved at the 2016 biennial conference. The changes would update and clarify several

provisions, including those concerning NPIP participation, voting requirements, testing procedures, and standards. Full text of the updates will be available here after Federal Register publication.

These actions are scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on April 9. APHIS will consider all comments on the proposed rule received on or before May 9. You may submit comments online at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0055>

or by mail at Docket No. APHIS-2017-0055, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Original article: <https://bit.ly/2rNqXe5>

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service 9 CFR Parts 53, 71, 91, 93, 94, 95, 98, and 104

[Docket No. APHIS–2017–0070]

**Rinderpest;** Update of Communicable Animal Disease Provisions

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** We are amending the regulations concerning communicable diseases of livestock and poultry, interstate transportation and importation of animals (including poultry) and animal products, and permits for biological products to remove references to the animal disease rinderpest. This action reflects recognition by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that rinderpest has been eradicated worldwide, and removes restrictions that are no longer necessary due to eradication of the disease. This action better aligns our regulations with World Organization for Animal Health guidelines for international trade as they pertain to rinderpest.

**DATES:** Effective April 11, 2018.

### Secretary Perdue Announces New Senior Leaders at USDA

Sonny Perdue today announced the selection of senior leaders in several U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies. Perdue appointed Ken Isley as Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Administrator, Joel Baxley as Rural Housing Service (RHS) Administrator, and Martin Barbre as Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Administrator. In addition, Perdue announced the appointment of Tommie Williams as Minister-Counselor for Agriculture at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. **Full article:** <https://bit.ly/2Ja2oiu>

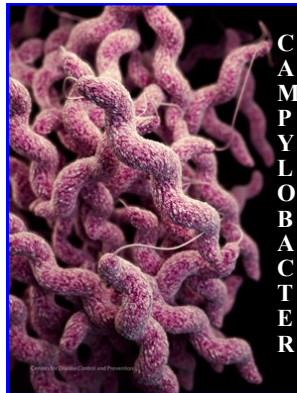
## GAO Report: USDA Should Take Further Action to Reduce Pathogens in Meat and Poultry Products

### Why GAO Did This Study

The U.S. food supply is generally considered safe, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in food cause about 2 million human illnesses per year in the United States. In 2014, GAO identified challenges USDA faced in reducing pathogens in poultry products, including standards that were outdated or nonexistent and limited control over factors that affect pathogen contamination outside of meat and poultry slaughter and processing plants, such as practices on the farm. GAO was asked to review USDA's approach to reducing pathogens in meat and poultry products. This report examines (1) the extent to which USDA has developed standards for meat and poultry products and (2) any additional steps USDA has taken to address challenges GAO identified in 2014. GAO reviewed relevant regulations, documents, and data and interviewed officials from USDA and CDC, as well as 17 stakeholders representing industry, consumer groups, and researchers selected based on their knowledge of USDA's meat and poultry slaughter inspections and food safety.

### What GAO Found

To help ensure the safety of our nation's food supply, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed standards limiting the amount of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*—pathogens that can cause foodborne illness in humans—permitted in certain meat (beef and pork) and poultry (chicken and turkey) products, such as ground beef, pork carcasses, and chicken breasts. However, the agency has not developed standards for other products that are widely available, such as turkey breasts and pork chops. Further, its process for deciding which products to consider for new standards is unclear because it is not fully documented, which is not consistent with federal standards for internal control. For example, USDA has informed stakeholders that it will take into account factors including consumption and illness data, but the agency has not documented this process going forward. Previously, USDA had developed new standards after widespread outbreaks indicated the need. For example, in 2016, USDA concluded that new standards were needed for certain poultry products to reduce *Salmonella* after re-



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viewing outbreaks from these products in 2011, 2013, and 2015—outbreaks in which 794 people were sickened and 1 died. By documenting the agency's process for deciding which products to consider for new standards, USDA could better ensure that such decisions will be risk-based.

USDA is taking steps to address challenges GAO identified in 2014 for reducing pathogens in poultry products, but these challenges are ongoing and could affect USDA's ability to reduce pathogens in meat as well. For example, one challenge GAO identified is that the level of pathogens in poultry products can be affected by practices on farms where poultry are raised. GAO recommended in 2014 that to help overcome this challenge, USDA guidelines on practices for controlling *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* on farms include information on the effectiveness of each of the practices, consistent with a recommendation from a USDA advisory committee. Since GAO's 2014 report, USDA drafted revised guidelines to include information on the effectiveness of on-farm practices for controlling pathogens in poultry and beef cattle, in 2015 and 2017, respectively. However, USDA's draft guidelines for controlling *Salmonella* in hogs do not contain such information. By including such information as it finalizes its draft guidelines, USDA could better inform industry of the potential benefits of adopting on-farm practices included in the guidelines and encourage implementation of such practices.



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### What GAO Recommends

GAO is making three recommendations, including that USDA document its process for deciding which products to consider for new standards and that it include information on the effectiveness of on-farm practices in its guidelines for *Salmonella* control in hogs. USDA agreed with GAO's recommendations and described actions it will take to implement them.

Original Article: <https://bit.ly/2L5S7FW>

Picture Sources: CDC

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

## **VETERINARY HAPPENINGS**

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

### **USDA APHIS Members**

(Information available next month.)

### **USDA FSIS Members**

(Information available next month.)

National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
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Washington, DC 20036

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## **Welcome New Members**

**Dr. Jonathan Shearer**, ARMY, O-4, MIN '06, Sandy Spring, MD

**Dr. Arial Patton Thompson**, FSIS, GS-13, NCU '05, Raleigh, NC

**Dr. Taylor Opel**, ARMY, MAJ, WSU '08, Cataula, GA

**Dr. William Stokes**, APHIS-AC, GS-14, OSU '79, Apex, NC

**Dr. Arthur King**, FSIS, GS-12, ILL '69, Tolono, IL

**Dr. John Bloxham**, FSIS, GS-12, AUB '54, Richmond, VA

**Dr. Melissa H. Clegg**, FSIS, GS-12, FL '13, Green Bay, WI

**Dr. Ericka Dickerson**, FSIS, GS-11, VT '17, Savannah, GA