



FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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Announcements

NAFV looking for volunteers to join our American Academy of Veterinary Medicine Committee!

This committee is NAFV's continuing education committee.

For more information, please contact Dr. Michael Gilsdorf at mgilsdorf@nafv.org

UPCOMING NAFV MEETING:

NAFV will hold a business meeting at this year's AVMA convention.

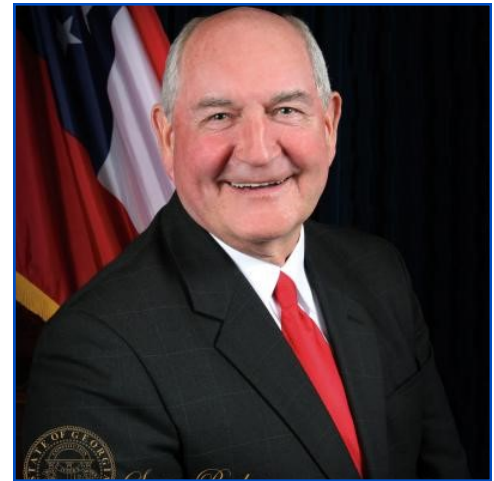
For more information, see pg. 7.

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue Delivers Opening Speech

Dear USDA Family:

Mary and I are honored, humbled, and thrilled to join the family at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thank you for your kind and warm welcome. I am pleased and proud to be working alongside the finest group of public servants in the United States.

My policies as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will be guided by four principles which will inform my every decision and our every action. First, we will maximize the ability of the men and women of America's agriculture and agribusiness sector to create jobs, to produce and sell the foods and fiber that feed and clothe the world, and to reap the earned reward of their labor. It should be the aim of the American government to remove every obstacle and give farmers, ranchers, and producers every opportunity to prosper. Second, we will prioritize customer service every day for American taxpayers and consumers. They will expect, and have every right to demand, that their government conduct the people's business efficiently, effectively, and with the utmost integrity. Third, as Americans expect a safe and secure food supply, USDA will continue to serve in the critical role of ensuring the food we put on the table to feed our families meets the strict safety standards we've established. We must never forget that we are the fortunate beneficiaries of past generations, who put a premium on smart stewardship, protecting, preserving, and entrusting us with those valuable resources. And finally, we must always remember that America's agricultural bounty comes directly from the land. And today, those land resources sustain more than 320 million Americans and countless mil-



lions more around the globe. My farmer father's words still ring true: We're all stewards of the land, owned or rented, and our responsibility is to leave it better than we found it.

Today we are engaged in a global economy in which the United States is a world leader. This means that American agriculture needs a strong advocate to promote its interests to international markets, which is a role I intend to fill. We are blessed to be able to produce more than our citizens can consume, which implies that we should sell the bounty around the world. The relationship between the USDA and its trade representatives, as well as with the U.S. Trade Representative and Department of Commerce, will be vital. The work of promoting American agricultural products to other countries will begin with those relationships and will benefit us domestically, just as it will fulfill the moral imperative of helping to feed the world. These ideas must also light the path we walk at USDA, and I pledge to be an unapologetic advocate for American agriculture.

The USDA I envision is one that is facts-based, which makes data-driven,

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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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EVP Column

Executive Vice President Report

by M. J. Gilsdorf, DVM

You might ask, “What is NAFV doing for federal veterinarians right now?” My answer is, “Plenty!”

NAFV has been meeting with key congressional leaders to convince them to approve and fund specialty pay for all 701 series federal veterinarians. This is no small task. We have also been speaking with commodity groups and veterinary associations gathering support for this. In addition, we have developed a staffing plan for FSIS veterinarians to relieve the 13% veterinary vacancy rate in FSIS. It includes the specialty pay as well as other recruitment and retention incentives.

You might recall that we have been working toward this for a decade, but President Davis and the NAFV Executive Committee approved an increase our efforts last January which included hiring a lobbyist to guide us in our efforts in Congress. In addition, we have also provided highly qualified candidates for undersecretary positions in USDA and have asked Secretary Perdue for a meeting to discuss all these topics. The AVMA is also supporting these efforts.

NAFV is also recruiting more Coordinators to help communicate with our members in the field and gather issues and recommendations to bring to the agency leaders. We are also encouraging members to get together in local chapter meetings to discuss issues and resolutions. I feel we have the best opportunity we have had in years to make improvements within APHIS and FSIS as well as other agencies within government because of a combination of recent events. For example, both APHIS and FSIS received increases in their budget for 2017 at a time when they ex-

pected to be cut by 20%.

We are also working to provide more continuing educational opportunities to our members. We need recommendations on courses and topics you are interested in; for example, supervisory training and Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) training. The NAFV Mississippi chapter held a day long training course last February that was well attended and very successful. The North Carolina chapter is developing a similar type of course for September. The NC training will include FAD training.

The end of June will mark 10 years for me in the EVP position. I have enjoyed working with and for all of you during that time. I think NAFV supports its members well despite being a small association of supervisors, managers and employees. 2018 will be a year for celebration for NAFV because it will be our 100th year in existence. I hope this year and next will also be our best years, based on our current efforts.

If you don't realize what NAFV has accomplished, go to the member section of our new web site and review our list of accomplishments. Also check out our new member forum on the web site. We have also started to send out weekly information on activities that affect federal veterinarians as requested by our Board members. If you haven't provided us with your personal email address, you are missing out.

We have more news and updates for you next month. Take care and send us your thoughts.

NAFV looking for volunteers interested in participating in different committees. If you are interested in becoming involved, please email Ms. Mariana Barros at mbarros@nafv.org or 202-223-4878

(Continued from Pg. 1, "Sec. Sonny Perdue")

customer-focused decisions. We will find solutions to problems, and not lament that we face difficult challenges. The public servants who work here know that they work on behalf of the American people, and those people – our customers – expect results.

There is great talent here at this agency – probably more than at any other place in the federal government – both in the Washington Capital Region and in even greater numbers in the world that stretches out across America and the globe. You, the career employees who have been servicing our customers for years, are the true lifeblood of the USDA. You are the ones on the front lines helping make American agriculture go, and the work you do every day helps feed Americans and people around the world. So I say to all of you – I am proud and happy to be here. I am ready to learn from you all, and I am ready to get to work. Over the coming weeks and months I will be reaching out and learning as much as possible from you, so please don't be surprised if I just show up at your office door one day to hear about what you're working on.

As a simple Georgia farm boy, making sure Americans who make their livelihood in the agriculture industry are thriving is near and dear to my heart. We are going to champion the concerns of American agriculture and work tirelessly to solve the issues facing our farm families. I am certain with hard work and dedication we will overcome any challenge we face. The ranchers, farmers, foresters, producers, and consumers we serve are the heart of this country and we would not be here without them.

They deserve the best we have to offer and I know that is exactly what they will get from us.

As I begin my service, I want to emphasize this Department's commitment to maintaining a culture that promotes the highest ethical standards. In everything we do as USDA employees one factor must and will remain constant: The Department of Agriculture's firm commitment to maintaining the highest degree of integrity and ethical behavior.

In closing, I wanted to mention just a couple of ideas that I have been considering as I awaited Senate confirmation. Many of you know that the office suite around the Secretary's Office on the second floor of the Whitten Building has become known colloquially as "The Cage." I don't find that to be a very hospitable nickname, and in fact, I think it conjures up images of keeping something trapped inside. So, I'd like you to start thinking about some other name we could bestow on that group of offices, and perhaps we'll have a naming contest of some kind. You'll be hearing more about this idea soon. Secondly, I think of our USDA community as a family, one that builds on the actual families we have at home. For that reason, we've started planning for a USDA Family Day – a picnic for all of us and our families, so that we can get to know each other a little better. You'll also be hearing more about this idea soon.

I look forward to meeting many of you this week and in the many weeks to come. Thank you again for all that you do day in and day out.

Do right and feed every human.

Sonny Perdue, Secretary

Faces of Food Safety: Dr. Ahmad Jilani - Public Health Is in His Bloodline

Dr. Ahmad Jilani is a Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV) and an Enforcement, Investigation and Analysis Officer (EIAO) in the Office of Field Operations. His grandfather was also a civil servant focused on safe foods and public health as a city food health officer in their native homeland of Pakistan. When Jilani was six, he would listen to his grandfather talk about "sick foods" and the importance of healthy eating. These stories influenced Jilani's decision to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and work in public health and food safety.

"Fruits, vegetables, meats, milks and other necessities the public used day-to-day were sold on the streets and in open-air markets in Pakistan and in most Asian countries," Jilani said. "When a city health official like my grandfather would inspect these markets, the shopkeepers would hide their expired products or throw them away because the health official would condemn the items and fine the



Pictured: Dr. Jilani alongside colleague at poultry plant.

merchants. I knew my grandfather's job was very important if people would try to avoid getting into trouble."

(Continued on Pg. 4, "Dr. Ahmad Jilani")

(Continued from Pg. 3, "Dr. Ahmad Jilani")

Becoming Part of the FSIS Family

Years later, when in college, Jilani learned about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and knew the Agency would be the obvious choice for his chosen profession, especially because his passions were veterinary medicine, meat inspection, pathology and microbiology. "In Pakistan, I earned my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in Meat Inspection and General Animal Welfare. Then, I studied in England where I earned a Master's of Biology degree, followed by a certification in meat inspection from the College of Distributive Trades in London. In 1974, I moved to the United States and worked in pathology and microbiology labs in hospitals in New York," Jilani said. "Those experiences prepared me to start my career with FSIS."

Initially Jilani was not able to obtain a position at FSIS, despite his extensive education and experience. He still had more to do, he recalls. "Even with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, when I came to this country, my pedagogy wasn't recognized, so I had to complete more training. I enrolled in the Equal Certification Foreign Veterinarians Graduates training, which is equivalent to being a four-year veterinary student," he said. "Following this training, I had to complete a one-year unpaid internship and had to find employment to live. So, I found work in hospital labs. Luckily, while still completing the internship, I was able to leave the hospital job and begin working at FSIS, and the rest is history, as they say."

Jilani's Own Impact

Jilani has been with FSIS for 31 years and feels that he has a positive impact on the many lives he touches, just as his grandfather did. "I know I play a vital role in keeping the public safe. As a public health veterinarian, it is my responsibility to ensure the food produced is safe and free of any microbial agents that are harmful to the nation's health," he said. "When I come to the job every morning, I feel I am going to save many lives in the nation by assuring they will get healthy meat products, which are so essential for human health."

For more than a dozen years in the early part of his FSIS career, Jilani inspected a variety of red meat species at duty stations across the U.S., including Boston, Delaware, New York and Texas. He has also worked in poultry plants in the Eastern Shore area of

Maryland. During those years, Jilani saw a lot of changes with poultry inspection.

"Beginning in 1998, one particular plant in Eastern Shore was first a traditional poultry plant that converted to the New Line Speed Inspection System, and then it changed to a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points-Based Inspection Models Project plant," said Jilani. Since 2015, that same plant has been part of the New Poultry Inspection System. "I've been here through all the policy changes and that no matter what inspection system was being used, that food safety responsibilities were met every day," Jilani said.

Dr. Tagelsir M. Mohamed, a Raleigh district frontline supervisor, praised Jilani's dedication to the Agency and to those they work with. "I've known Dr. Jilani in a variety of capacities for many years. He's able to plan, create, teach in the field of food safety, and is an excellent writer and editor for translating technical information into engaging content. Dr. Jilani has his finger on the pulse of technological trends and provides content that's both useful and captivating to inspection personnel and industry," said Mohamed.

Time for Colleagues, Family and Self

Outside of work, Jilani is very involved in the National Association of Federal Veterinarians as a mentor, recruiter and trainer for the organization. Jilani also volunteers at his church and in his community teaching Sunday School, and leads campaigns to fight hunger and donate warm clothing to those in need.

Busy as he may be, Jilani has plenty of time to spend with his wife of 45 years and their four children. Two sons are computer engineers and the other son and daughter followed in their grandfather's and father's footsteps by pursuing public health careers (in hospital management and as a trainer for an international food company, respectively). Jilani also loves to travel to other countries and learn about different cultures. He enjoys gardening, and shares with his FSIS team by repotting plant clippings from his cherished office plants and giving them as gifts.

Jilani describes himself as someone with a "deeply sympathetic heart." Many of his colleagues agree, including Lead Consumer Safety Inspector Rita Hurst. "Dr. Jilani's contributions to the Agency have also consisted of educating the public about food safety. His skills in these areas have been a great asset in helping others," said Hurst.

Source: FSIS | <http://bit.ly/2oYahCa>



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Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM)



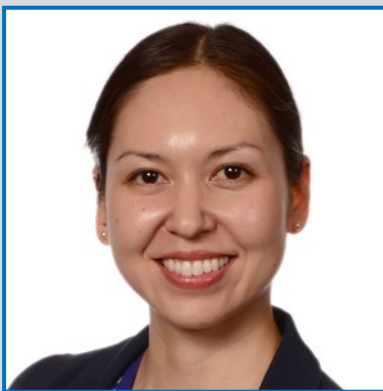
The University of California, Davis welcomes applications for the Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) degree program. The MPVM is a 1-2 year graduate professional Master's degree for veterinarians. Since 1967, this pioneering program's more than 900 graduates have excelled worldwide in leadership,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

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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/>



AVMA Council Submissions: NAFV Member Dr. Misha Robyn

School & Year Of Graduation:

Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, 2009

Candidate for:

Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Robyn earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health at Tufts University. She also earned a Certificate in International Veterinary Medicine, working on food hygiene in Nepal and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Indonesia. After veterinary school, she worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, as a Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian and an Enforcement, Investigation, and Analysis Officer before receiving a promotion to a Frontline Supervisor covering over 40 regulated facilities in Brooklyn and Queens, New York.

She also followed up on her previous work in Indonesia as a temporary food safety consultant with the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization. Dr. Robyn joined CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service in 2014 and enjoyed gaining breadth in public health activities at the New York State Department of Health, including working in healthcare-associated infections, hepatitis A, Q fever, as well as two deployments to Liberia for CDC's Ebola response in both the Epidemiology and Infection Control teams. She is currently working in public health prevention and outbreak response with CDC's Enteric Zoonosis Activity, working with other state and federal partners and industry to reduce enteric diseases associated with contact with animals.

VIDEO SUBMISSION FROM DR. ROBYN: <http://bit.ly/2qsByMX>

NAFV is currently putting together a list of NAFV members interested in participating in AVMA's multiple councils.

If you are interested in joining this list of candidates, please email Ms. Mariana Barros at mbarros@nafv.org.

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NAFV Coordinator Candidates: Dr. Lynne White-Shim, and Dr. Robert Simer

Dr. Lynne White-Shim, FSIS



Dr. Lynn White-Shim is a graduate of the University of Illinois, 2006, and is currently serving as a SPHV in FSIS. Dr. White-Shim previously served as a staff consultant with the AVMA where she facilitated policy development and advocacy.

She is a self-described service-oriented veterinarian with a passion for advocacy, which drives her interest in a Coordinator position with NAFV.

“As an AVMA staff person, I saw first-hand the value of grassroots-oriented advocacy on behalf of the profession. Now, as a public servant, I wish to assist NAFV by creating and promoting chapters, guiding members who request information, and helping to interact with federal agencies.”

Please contact nafv@nafv.org with your comments on Drs . White-Shim & Simer’s induction as NAFV coordinators.

Dr. Robert “Bob” Simer, APHIS-VS



Dr. Simer is a graduate of the University of Illinois, 1989, and currently serves as Supervisory Field Veterinarian in Waco, TX. Dr. Simer began his federal career as a SPHV for FSIS in 2006, where he eventually became an IIC, before transitioning to VS in 2014. He has

served as Temp. Acting Assistant Director of Texas, Planning Chief for Indiana Avian Influenza Incident in 2016, and Deputy Planning Chief on National Incident Management Team Indigo, among other duties.

Dr. Simer looks forward to the opportunity of becoming an NAFV coordinator and utilizing his experience in finance and statistics, combined with his passion for the federal veterinary profession.

NAFV Coordinators can be involved in formal and informal consultation with agency leaders, in less formal communication and interaction between colleagues; help to coordinate Chapters and meetings; help to recruit and retain members; and communicate with the national office.

Biodefense Study Panel looks at Budgeting, Agrodefense, and Other Topics in 2017

by *Ellen P. Carlin, DVM*

The bipartisan Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense has been active in 2017 pursuing its analysis and advocacy agenda. The Panel, established in 2014 to assess the state of U.S. biodefense efforts and to issue recommendations designed to foster change, is the only one of its kind in biodefense to harness the experience and credibility of six high-ranking former federal policymakers. Senator Joe Lieberman, Governor Tom Ridge, Secretary Donna Shalala, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Representative Jim Greenwood, and the Honorable Kenneth Weinstein each serve as members.

Since its inception since 2014, the Panel has identified systemic weaknesses in the national biodefense posture and recommended 33 steps the government can take to mitigate these weaknesses. The Panel's first report, [*A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize Efforts*](#), assessed ongoing efforts; articulated actions to improve the nation's biodefense capabilities to prevent, deter, prepare for, detect, respond to, attribute, recover from, and mitigate biological incidents; and identified near and long-term actions that current and future Congresses and Presidential Administrations should take to improve the national biodefense posture.

Understanding the zoonotic nature of many – indeed, most – of the biothreats that concern the federal government today, the Panel has always maintained a significant interest in animal health and its nexus to human health. Dr. Ellen Carlin, a veterinarian formerly with the House Committee on Homeland Security and currently with EcoHealth Alliance,

serves as the Panels' co-director. Among seven Ex Officio members who inform the Panel's work are three veterinarians: Dr. William B. Karesh of EcoHealth Alliance; Dr. Gerald W. Parker of Texas A&M University; and Dr. George Poste of Arizona State University.

The Panel kicked off 2017 with a January meeting at Kansas State University exploring [challenges in agrodefense](#). Topics discussed included biosurveillance integration, vulnerabilities in the food chain, and the overarching importance of leadership. Dr. Brett Marsh, Indiana State Veterinarian, provided an excellent and thoughtful lunch keynote. The Panel will issue a report this year detailing its findings.

In addition, the Panel will hold other meetings in the coming months, notably on budget reform for biodefense. The budget meetings are scheduled for May 1 and August 2 in Washington, DC. The Panel also intends to hold additional meetings on other important topics outside the Beltway. Most importantly, its Members will continue to advocate for uptake of their recommendations at the highest levels of American government.

For more information, to reach the Panel staff, and to sign up for activity updates, please visit www.biodefensstudy.org.



Ellen P. Carlin, DVM
Co-Director
Blue Ribbon Study
Panel on Biodefense
<http://www.biodefensstudy.org>

USAHA Seeks Award Nominations

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) is asking members to consider nominees for two awards presented each year at the President's dinner at the annual meeting, October 15, 2017 during the 2017 Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Medal of Distinction

The USAHA Medal of Distinction is awarded annually to recognize one or more distinguished USAHA members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, provided exemplary service, and have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Association. Nominees must be a current member in good standing.

Federal Partnership Award

The USAHA Federal Partnership Award is designated for the recognition of a federal employee* that has demonstrated commendable service to the betterment of animal health in the United States. Candidates can be employed at any level of an Official Agency Member of USAHA. The Awardee should exemplify partnership with states and industry stakeholders through leadership, expertise and/or accomplishments. The recipient need not be a member of USAHA, but have a positive impact on animal health related to the work of USAHA.

Nominations are due August 1, 2017, to the USAHA office.

Instructions and Forms are available at: <http://www.usaha.org/2017-annual-meeting>

Direct links: [Medal of Distinction](#) | [Federal Partnership](#)

How to Cut Your Tax Bill on Your Federal Retirement Income

by John Grobe | 04/23/2017

This article will be of more interest to retirees than it will to current federal employees, however, if you're close to retirement, you will pick up some helpful information if you read it.

Most FedSmith readers have by now filed their federal income tax returns, though a few, like me, have filed extensions and have until October 16th (the 15th is on a Sunday) to file.

Many retired feds will have had a nasty surprise once they saw the bottom line on their federal income tax return because withholding can be significantly different for retirement income than it is for employment income. If you are one of those who ended up paying a lot (perhaps even facing the Estimated Tax Penalty), this article will give you some hints as to how to avoid owing a lot of taxes on Tax Day next year. If you're about to retire, it will help you avoid a large payment of tax due in your first year of retirement.

While you're still working you simply file a W-4 and taxes are withheld from your paycheck. You "set it and forget it". It's different when you retire.

Annuity

Regarding your federal annuity (CSRS or FERS), you likely filled out a W-4P with your retirement papers and taxes are being withheld from your monthly payments. You probably based this withholding on the last W-4 you filed while still an employee and it most likely covers all taxes due from your CSRS or FERS annuity.

Social Security

Where it gets problematic is when we get to your Social Security and TSP withholding.

It is quite likely that 85% of your Social Security will be subject to federal income tax at your rate for ordinary income, though some retirees will find that a lesser portion is considered taxable; the higher your income the higher the percentage of your Social Security benefit that is subject to federal income tax. But Social Security will not withhold anything from your payments for taxes unless you ask them to! The key to avoiding a tax surprise is to pay the income tax on your Social Security as you go. You can:

- Ask Social Security to withhold from your monthly payments. You can do this when you apply (if you're applying online, you do it in the "remarks" section of the form) or you can file a form W-4V after you have applied.
- Make quarterly estimated tax payments. These payments which are due on April 15, June 15,

September 15 and January 15 (or a few days later depending on the day of the week the 15th falls on) require you to remember to set aside the money for the payment and remember to actually send it in. I don't trust my memory (or my ability to keep my hands off money that I have set aside) so, when I filed for Social Security, I requested that they withhold 25% of my payment for federal income taxes.

TSP

The Thrift Savings Plan withholds taxes at different rates for different types of payments. They have a booklet available on their website that contains a detailed table describing the withholding on each different type of withdrawal.

According to TSP statistics, the most common withdrawal is one called "substantially equal monthly payments" and that that type of withdrawal (if the payments are like to continue for 10 years or more) is withheld as if you were married, filing jointly, and claiming 3 exemptions.

Really? A CPA colleague of mine calculated that you would have to be withdrawing slightly over \$1,700 per month before the TSP begins withholding.

How do you keep from having a nasty tax surprise with your TSP distributions? Pretty much the same way you would with Social Security:

- Increase the amount of withholding by completing the withholding portion of your TSP withdrawal form. If you've already begun distributions and want to have more withheld, you can file a W-4P. During the annual open season, you could also change your withholding on form TSP -73 (the form is only available on the TSP website during the open season).
- You could choose to make quarterly estimated tax payments, as described above in the discussion of Social Security.

Most of us don't like to pay taxes – but we have to. What we don't have to do is pay penalties that result from our underpaying taxes due to the fact that we do not understand how taxes are withheld from retirement income. If you were stuck owing a lot, including a penalty; make changes now so that it doesn't happen again in the future.

*This article was written by federal retirement expert John Grobe, appeared in FedSmith, and is reprinted with permission.

Original article: <http://bit.ly/2pYG1ay>

Florida Keys Say Goodbye to Flesh-eating Screw Flies

By Jenny Staletovich | 04/24/2017

About 190 million screw flies later, South Florida appears to be free of the flesh-eating pest that threatened to wipe out the planet’s last remaining herd of tiny Key deer.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will release its final sterile fly to combat an infestation confirmed in September, which marked the first outbreak in the continental U.S. in three decades. About 135 deaths in a herd numbering just 875 were blamed on the insect — formally known as the New World screwworm fly — although the numbers could be higher since the herd is spread across such a wide area that also includes remote back country.

In an interview with the Herald Monday, the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service chief veterinarian called the massive effort a success, despite the flies getting a head start.

“This is a real success story for Florida and for the fish and wildlife folks and the people in Monroe County,” Jack Shere said. “Anytime you can eradicate a disease like this quickly, it’s a good thing.”

The flies, which lay their eggs in open sores so larva can feed on live flesh, probably arrived months before they were confirmed, Shere said.

But because they are so rare in the U.S., they were overlooked as a source for the grisly head wounds on male deer heading into the fall mating season. That gave the flies time to establish breeding populations in the islands, and meant a much more intense response.

Altogether, Shere said flies were detected on 13 islands. While the agency typically uses aerial releases to treat big areas, the winds and geography

across the Keys required ground releases. Every Monday, millions of chilled sterile larva arrived by plane from a U.S. breeding facility in Panama and were then warmed and released, ready to hatch and mate with wild flies. Enough flies were released to cover five life cycles, he said.

Shere estimated that the USDA spent between \$3 million and \$4 million, which does not include state costs to man a checkpoint round the clock at Key Largo or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expenses, which included treating and monitoring the deer.

Where the flies came from and how they arrived in the Keys remains unknown, although Shere said there are obvious suspects. “It takes just a couple of flies hitchhiking on a boat or a plane to get something like this started,” he said. “And it happened at an opportune time, during rutting.”

The agency is continuing to try to track the source by comparing DNA in the Keys flies to DNA in flies throughout the Caribbean and South America, where they have not been contained. If they can identify the source, measures can be put in place, like spraying planes or more closely inspecting animals.

“The lesson learned is vigilance,” he said. “Early detection is really key to eradicating any disease, no matter what disease you’re talking about.”

*This article has been reprinted with the permission of Ms. Staletovich & The Miami Herald

Original article: <http://hrlld.us/2pf2Gfl>

“ANYTIME YOU CAN ERADICATE A DISEASE LIKE THIS QUICKLY, IT’S A GOOD THING.”

- Jack Shere, chief veterinarian for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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The number of islands in the Keys where screw flies were found

Development of a Microwave Energy Delivery System for Reversible Stunning of Cattle

McLean, Meers, Ralph, Owen, Small

Abstract

Stunning prior to slaughter is commonly used to render the animal insensible to pain. However, for certain markets, stunning is disallowed, unless the animal can fully recover if not slaughtered. There are very few available methods of inducing a fully recoverable stun. This paper describes the development of a microwave energy application system for stunning cattle. Cadaver heads were used to demonstrate that brain temperature could be raised to a point at which insensibility would be expected to occur (44°C), and to calculate the power and time combinations required to achieve this in a range of cattle weights. Surface heating was identified as a cause for potential concern, which was mitigated by the development of another type of microwave applicator. Although the applicator and process variables require validation in animal studies, this technology shows promise as a method of inducing a recoverable stun.

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**National Association of Federal Veterinarians
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 1st, 2017 | Washington, DC**

Attendees:

Dr. Larry Davis, President	Dr. Patty Bennett, FSIS Representative
Dr. Barb Porter-Spalding, President-Elect	Dr. Tom Vermeersch, FSIS Representative
Dr. Deanna Brown, Secretary-Treasurer	Dr. Rachel Cezar, APHIS Representative
Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, Executive Vice President	Dr. Stephan Schaeffbauer, APHIS Representative
Mr. Bill Hughes, NAFV General Counsel	Dr. John Sanders, Non-USDA "Other" Agency Representative
Ms. Mariana Barros, Administrative Assistant	

Introduction

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) Board of Directors (BOD) held its biennial in-person meeting on Saturday, April 1, 2017. The NAFV BOD met in the Williams Board Room of the Greenbelt Holiday Inn in Greenbelt, MD. The NAFV BOD meeting began at 8:11 AM ET. Dr. Gilsdorf began the meeting by thanking all participants for their attendance and began going down the agenda.

Approval of NAFV 2016 BOD Minutes

Dr. Michael Gilsdorf gave the BOD time to review, and then asked for any amendments. No amendments to the minutes were proposed. Dr. John Sanders moved to approve the BOD minutes as submitted, Dr. Larry Davis seconded. The 2016 BOD Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Report of the NAFV President

What I consider to be our association's primary problem is membership and recruitment. I have identified a number of key areas that need to be addressed:

- **Transparency:** I believe we need to make a bigger effort to become more transparent to our membership and make them aware of all that we do in their interest. I suggest that we begin inviting our membership to join our monthly coordinator calls and listen to the topics that are discussed on those calls. I would also like to see an increased level of activity and transparency in communicating with our membership via social media.

- **Membership succession:** given that a large part of our membership is eligible for retirement, we need to make an effort to recruit the newly hired veterinarians early in their careers. We also need to make an effort to get our younger members to become engaged in the association's different committees and workgroups. I have identified some members whom I believe would be good candidates be a part of these efforts. I would like to ask APHIS BOD representatives to provide me with names of candidates for this "millennial" workgroup.

- **AVMA membership and committee participation:** As a member of the legislative body of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), NAFV is an important voice that represents the unique interests of the federal veterinary profession. This participation in the HOD and different committees is critical to ensure that the federal veterinary perspective is considered when making legislative, regulatory, and educational decisions. I would like to see more effort to get NAFV members more involved in those committees and represent NAFV.

What I (Dr. Davis) consider to be FSIS's primary problem is the issue of vacancies for SPHVs in mainly poultry slaughter plants being filled by Supervisory Consumer Safety Inspectors (SCSIs).

Report of the Executive Vice President

Dr. Michael Gilsdorf provided a detailed report of NAFV efforts in 2016 in his 2016 EVP report. Below are the topics from this report which were discussed by the group.

- **NAFV Coordinators:** We implemented monthly conference calls with the NAFV coordinators. We also had Drs. Davis Hsi, APHIS, Angela McIntyre, FSIS join as coordinators. The BOD expressed a great deal of interest in getting our current NAFV coordinators more involved.

- **The *Federal Veterinarian* newsletter:** BOD members mentioned interest in sending out a more frequent form of communication with our membership. (i.e., weekly blog post, weekly mass email; newsletter highlights).

- **Chapter Meetings:** Chapter meetings were a priority for NAFV this past year, as they are each year. We held a meeting Mississippi, which actually was a continuing education event held in partnership with the local NAFV chapter, Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association chapter, and Mississippi State University. Other chapter meetings were held in Philadelphia, PA, Des Moines, IA, Modesto, CA and Fort Collins, CO. He also traveled to meet with VMO's at CDC in Atlanta, GA, and APHIS in Riverdale, MD. Dr. Davis mentioned he would like to see a greater effort being put forth into partnering with local universities to hold more CE eligible chapter meetings.

This current year NAFV is working to get support for their FSIS PHV staffing plan and influencing the Secretary of Agriculture and different undersecretaries. These coalitions were critical in gathering the necessary signatures to push these efforts forward.

- **NAFV Biannual meetings at AVMA & USAHA:** Dr. Davis and Dr. Sanders recommended looking into making these two annual NAFV meetings eligible for CE credits. This would be a good incentive for members and non-members to attend. Dr. Gilsdorf agreed and will be looking into these efforts.

- **NAFV Award:** Dr. Fred Bourgeois was presented the second NAFV Unsung Veterinary Excellence award in April, 2017.

- **Ad-Hoc committees:** Mike Gilsdorf created two committees in 2016. He selected groups of veterinarians in US Agriculture Research Services (ARS) and Commission Corps (CC) to form two committees with the same goal of identifying ways NAFV can better serve their respective groups.

- **Budget:** The 2016 approved budget had an expected income of \$197,000; our actual income was \$182,291.78. The ending balance was +\$378.14. Earlier this year, the executive committee met and approved a previously unplanned expense of \$36,000 to contract Chris Myrick Governmental Relations, LLC to aid with our efforts of influencing placements into USDA appointed positions, and specialty pay efforts through Congress.

- **PHV Staffing Plan:** NAFV worked on a staffing plan with the goal of reducing the 11% PHV vacancy rate in FSIS. We have submitted the plan to FSIS management and are gaining support in congress and from stakeholders

Report of the General Counsel

Mr. Bill Hughes reported on his activities during 2016. The BOD decided to offer Governor Sonny Purdue, DVM an honorary membership in the event that he is approved as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

New Business Items:

FSIS & APHIS veterinary scholarship recipients: Dr. Barb Porter-Spalding suggested that we make an effort to try and get in communication with the current veterinary scholarship student recipients and make them aware of what NAFV is, and encourage them to get involved with the idea that they come members as soon as they are eligible full time federal employees. John Sanders mentioned looking into reaching out to veterinary colleges' different one health clubs where there is a local NAFV member who can meet with them and inform them of federal veterinary opportunities. Dr. Stephan Schaeffbauer recommended creating slideshows that our membership can use when speaking in front of these one health clubs.

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 available next month)

USDA APHIS Members

(Information available next month)

Email Changes of Address to:

mbarros@nafv.org

Returned Checks NAFV charges

\$10.00 for checks returned for
Insufficient funds

Periodicals postage paid
at Washington, DC

Welcome New Members

Dr. Gabriel Eddings, FSIS, GS-12, WSU '15, Lafayette, OR

Dr. David Galloway, ARMY, KSU '95, Ashburn, VA (Recommended by Dr. John Poppe)

Dr. Earl VanBuskirk, FSIS, GS-12, WSU '07, Belfair, WA (Recommended by Dr. Michael Mikhael)

Dr. Misty Looney, Nat. Guard, O5, MSU '04, West Point, MS (Recommended by Dr. Kermit Harvey)

Dr. Robinson Rodgers, FSIS, GS-12, COR '92, Spencer, NY

Dr. Cara Williams, FSIS, GS-12, WIS '13, Hawthorne, NJ (Recommended by Dr. Suresh Dua)

Dr. Stephanie Glanz, FSIS, GS-11, ROS '09, Beatrice, NE

Dr. Jonathan Lebovitz, FSIS, GS-12, VT, '16, Glen Allen, VA (Recommended by Dr. Marian Romano)

Dr. Khurram Afzal, FSIS, GS-12, PAK '10, Strasburg, VA (Recommended by Dr. Muhammad Ghalib)

Dr. Danielle Kettelkamp, FSIS, GS-12, ISU '02, Penn Laird, VA

Dr. Danielle Doyle, FSIS, GS-12, OK '13, Harlem, GA (Recommended by Dr. Angela McIntyre)

Dr. Lynne White-Shim, FSIS, ILL '06, Savoy, IL

Dr. Sarah Kline, FSIS, GS-12, ISU '13, Logan, IA

Dr. Tony A. Stultz, FSIS, GS-12, MO '94, Rocky Point, NC

Dr. Robbie Haskins, FSIS, NCU '95, Dunn, NC

Dr. Paul Pomes, FSIS, GS-12, ILL '07, Hagatna, Guam

Dr. Brittany DiVerde, FSIS, GS-11, ISU '11, Brandon, SD

Dr. Ross Free, APHIS-VS, GS-13, OSU '06, Raleigh, NC (Recommended by Dr. Barb Porter-Spalding, and Dr. Barry Meade)