



FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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REMINDER:

NEW DUES STRUCTURE IN 2020!

Members, this is a friendly reminder of the announcement we sent a few weeks back on our updated dues structure.

[https://
conta.cc/2OWvoz8](https://conta.cc/2OWvoz8)

To view our new dues structure, you can also visit the payment options page on our website.

[https://nafv.org/
payment-options](https://nafv.org/payment-options)

Our 2019 Annual Letter



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

INTO A NEW CENTURY

As we celebrate NAFV's 101st year of supporting federal veterinarians we have had many changes this year. Dr. Joe Anelli became the Executive Vice President in May after Dr. Marvin Meinders stepped down. Fortunately, Dr. Michael Gilsdorf remained on staff part-time as Senior Staff Veterinarian to help in the transition with his 11 years of experience as EVP (2007 to 2018). Through all of these transitions, the glue that has held it all together is Mrs. Mariana Barros-Titus who served as your Associate Executive Vice President and has served NAFV for the past 5 years.

One of NAFV's primary activities is to have official consultations with APHIS and FSIS leadership. These consultations have been established in a formal agreement with USDA since 1974. As such, NAFV routinely gathers issues and/or actions on management issues that need improvement and work with Agency leaders to help make corrective actions. NAFV also listens to its members and provides recommendations on how you suggest improving programs and policies and brings those to Agency leadership. These activities provided enough topics and recommendations for several pre-consultation meetings, and two official consultations with Agency leadership.

In addition, NAFV continues to monitor legislation and works closely with the AVMA Government Relations Division (GRD) to identify legislation that affects federal employees and we work to prevent adverse legislation from being passed. In the past year, NAFV has also been taking more public stances on issues and issued several press releases. Most recently, NAFV supported the new FSIS swine inspection rule, which you can find on our new website.

NAFV worked this year to increase the number of local chapters and provide speakers and topics for chapters to use to inform members of ongoing issues. One new chapter was formed in Atlanta with the CDC veterinarians, led by Dr. Adam Langer. Their main goal is to get approval for specialty pay similar to the pay received by other medical personnel at CDC. NAFV continues to work on obtaining specialty pay, hiring bonuses, and retention bonuses for all federally employed veterinarians. This is a complex Congressional undertaking. These efforts are powered by our members' engagement and local chapter meetings are a wonderful way to gather such. If you are interested in holding a local meeting, please contact your regional coordinator for such. You can find your coordinator on our NAFV website and on the last page of our bi-monthly newsletter.

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The annual subscription rate is \$50.00 for United States and Canada and \$70.00 for foreign mailing, payable by January 1 each year. Subscriptions are not available to those eligible for membership.

Any non-uniformed veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member. Dues are \$234.00 annually, payable annually, semi-annually, 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, "2019 Annual Letter")

This year, Dr. Meinders and Dr. Anelli expanded the continuing educational webinars we offer. In addition, Dr. Anelli and Mrs. Barros-Titus improved our website by completely redesigning it and making it easier to navigate. They also greatly improved our social media presence and increased regular communications through weekly email blasts with updates on issues affecting federal veterinarians to keep members better informed. Finally, we also expanded our educational offerings to members to include Financial Wellness, Career Development and Work-Life Balance webinars. Please be sure to look out for our upcoming webinars in 2020.

Maintaining membership has always been a priority for NAFV but it was even more important this year. We have been very successful in gaining many new members especially with the new incentives initiated this year. However, more members retired this year than in previous years, so the net increase was small. The Board of Directors prepared for this potential outcome by voting to increase dues for the first time in over 15 years (NAFV decreased dues in 2008). These funds are needed to allow NAFV to continue supporting members.

In the spirit of One Health, we are also reaching out to our "affiliate" organizations such as State counterparts and Student counterparts by an NAFV affiliate category. This will allow State employed veterinarians access to the same training and educational opportunities as our members and the ability to qualify for NAFV's liability insurance. This and our "Student Affiliate" category allows networking among these groups to share issues and improve programs, be they state or federal; and our very low-priced Student Affiliates can get career advice and have a better understanding of federal service when making career decisions.

NAFV's General Counsel, William G Hughes ESQ, continues to provide legal advice and counseling to our membership, including over 80 members who worked with him directly related to employee relations issues.

NAFV conducts an Annual Survey on the status of the Federal Veterinary Workforce. No Federal entity collects and aggregates this information; we are the only source for the agencies, congress, other associations, and the general public. The next survey results will be available this spring- hopefully by the next Board of Directors meeting.

This year we have had 71 federal veterinarians join our organization and 56 who have retired. If you have recently retired or plan to retire soon, please ensure that you have updated our national office of such. NAFV also initiated a process where members can get reimbursed for their annual membership dues by getting 3 nonmembers to join. If you wish, we can assist you in that effort if you contact our national office.

We ask that, if you have not already done so in the past year, please take a few minutes to update your information in our database by clicking on the bottom of any email from us on the "Update Profile" button. Summary information about our members helps us when meeting with members of congress and other groups.

If you have any questions or sug-

(Continued on Pg. 3, "2019 Annual Letter")

(Continued from Pg. 2, "2019 Annual Letter")

-gestions, we would love to hear from you. Please email Dr. Joseph Anelli at jfannelli@nafv.org.

And finally, if anyone asks what NAFV has done for you lately, show them this list of 2019 accomplishments:

1. Increasing NAFV membership
2. Exploring how to provide additional benefits to members
3. Assisting members with administrative and personnel issues
4. Tracking budget and expenses more efficiently
5. Scheduling routine Consultations with APHIS and FSIS to improve working conditions and programs
6. Gathering significant national topics and recommendations for consultations
7. Working on obtaining Specialty pay for veterinarians in Veterans Administration and CDC
8. Working with AVMA on specialty pay and recognition of the work that federal veterinarians accomplish
9. Addressing Federal pay and benefit proposals by Congress
10. Working with FSIS on PHV hiring, training, career ladder opportunities, recruitment issues, retention issues
11. Working with APHIS on hiring, reorganization, administrative and personnel issues
12. Working with Animal Care on administrative and personnel issues
13. Upgrading NAFV web page
14. Reinvigorating NAFV coordinator positions and appointing more coordinators
15. Working with coalitions on issues of concern to the federal veterinarian
16. Increasing NAFV income to better serve its members
17. Scheduling quarterly update meetings with VS to obtain information for the newsletter
18. Scheduling more NAFV chapter meetings
19. Establishing more NAFV chapters
20. Attending more USDA training and orientation courses to inform veterinarians about NAFV
21. Keeping members informed about NAFV activities through social media
22. Automated the maintenance and updating of the NAFV membership database
23. Addressing member concerns and responding back to them in a timely manner
24. Providing input to others on federal veterinary issues especially the AVMA House of Delegates
25. Meeting with congressional members to educate them on federal veterinary issues and resolutions
26. Partner with the AAFSPHV to maintain the Food Safety Symposium agendas at AVMA and USAHA
27. Working with federal veterinarians in other federal agencies and the military to determine how NAFV can assist them
28. Working closely with the AVMA Government Relations Division on various veterinary issues and providing input and assistance
29. Working with the AAVMC and veterinary college Deans to improve the veterinary curricula in areas that affect federal skills and to inform students about federal opportunities and NAFV
30. Exploring how to use new technology to further the mission of NAFV

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2019

The Honorable George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to request information related to the ongoing multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Dublin linked to ground beef, and to urge you to adopt a policy of greater transparency with respect to the microbiological testing data that USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) collects from slaughter and processing establishments. By disclosing this data, USDA will foster market-based incentives for safer meat and poultry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ground beef contaminated with a virulent strain of *Salmonella* Dublin has so far caused at least eight hospitalizations and one death.¹ Investigators have not identified a single, common supplier of ground beef, but FSIS has identified the outbreak strain in six samples of raw beef products from slaughter and processing establishments. FSIS collected the samples as part of its routine testing to measure compliance with *Salmonella* performance standards. FSIS regulations, however, do not require that the establishments take any remedial action to protect the public from product contaminated with the outbreak strain. (...)

FSIS officials have suggested that they have not disclosed this genetic data because doing so could cause public confusion, or require public health authorities to focus their attention on misleading claims. We are not convinced that any such ill effects would outweigh the benefits of giving industry relevant, accurate, and timely information about contamination in food processing facilities, and creating market-based incentives for better food safety control. Accordingly, we urge you to take prompt action to begin sharing this critical information with both regulated entities and the public. In the meantime, we request that you respond to the following questions by December 13, 2019:

- 1) For each sample collected by FSIS that has tested positive for the outbreak strain associated with the ongoing multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Dublin infections linked to ground beef, what product was sampled, when, and at which establishment?
- 2) For each sample collected by FSIS that has tested positive for the outbreak strain, when and how did FSIS notify the establishment from which the positive sample was collected? If no notification has been given, why?
- 3) If the outbreak strain has been found in samples from more than one establishment, what is the root cause or common source of the contamination? If still not known, how is FSIS investigating to find the root cause or common source?
- 4) How many samples collected from turkey slaughter and processing establishments have tested positive for the outbreak strain associated with the multistate outbreak of antibiotic resistant *Salmonella* Infantis infections linked to raw chicken products? When, where, and from what products were these samples taken? Has FSIS notified the establishments producing these products? If not, why not? What is the root cause of this contamination, or if still not known, what is FSIS doing to find the root cause?

We look forward to your response, and to working with you to ensure that taxpayer funded microbiological sampling in meat and poultry establishments makes the maximum possible impact in improving food safety.

Sincerely,


 ROSA L. DeLAURO
 Member of Congress


 KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
 United States Senator

We have reprinted this letter in parts for our publication. You can see the full letter as was sent to Secretary Perdue at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2LTvx5q>



Food Safety Alert

Outbreak of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Ground Beef

Published on November 19, 2019 at 12:15 PM ET
 Latest Outbreak Information

- Eleven people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Dublin have been reported from seven states.
 - o Eight ill people were hospitalized, including one death reported from California. [Epidemiologic, traceback, and laboratory evidence](#) indicate that contaminated ground beef is the likely source of this outbreak.
 - o In interviews, ill people report eating different types and brands of ground beef purchased from many different locations.
 - o Laboratory testing identified the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Dublin in repackaged leftover ground beef collected from an ill person's home in California.
- On November 15, 2019, Central Valley Meat Co. in Hanford, Calif., [recalled](#) 34,222 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with *Salmonella* Dublin.
 - o This outbreak investigation is ongoing and CDC will update the public if more information becomes available.

Snapshot: An Exercise in Collaboration - What to Do If There Was an African Swine Fever Epidemic in the U.S.

Source: DHS | November 12, 2019

The African swine fever outbreak, currently ravaging China since August 2018 and spreading to other Asian countries, presents a considerable threat to a nation's economy through the loss of its agricultural resources. Such an impact is currently being felt in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Japan, North Korea, and most recently South Korea. This infectious disease is affecting not only pig farmers, but also farmers growing crops to feed the pig herds.

The African swine fever virus infects domestic and wild pigs, but it does not infect humans. As it multiplies, the virus causes internal bleeding and results in almost 100% mortality of infected pigs. The U.S. pork industry produces \$20 billion of meat annually, according to recent estimates from the U.S. Department of Commerce. If this disease made its way to the U.S., the results could be devastating. Last year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(Continued on Pg. 6, "DHS ASF Exercise")

(Continued from Pg. 5, “DHS ASF Exercise”)

(DHS) [Science and Technology Directorate](#) (S&T) [intensified vaccine research efforts](#) in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by creating an African Swine Fever Task Force, based out of the S&T [Plum Island Animal Disease Center](#) (PIADC) in New York state. The Task Force’s primary focus is on developing a vaccine and improving the diagnostics for African swine fever.



“The emergence of African swine fever has decimated the swine industry in China, but the effects will likely be felt worldwide,” said Dr. Larry Barrett, PIADC Director. “No outbreaks have been reported in the United States, but DHS, USDA, and the entire National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) need to be prepared to fend off this intractable contagion.”

To prepare the United States for a domestic outbreak of African swine fever, S&T and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently conducted a tabletop exercise at PIADC centered on laboratory response preparedness. The most important part of the exercise was to see how different government and scientific entities collaborated to solve a major national problem – an African swine fever outbreak that could negatively affect the U.S. food supply and the economy.

Background

The exercise was part of a four-day African swine fever training and exercise program hosted by S&T and the USDA Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL). Multiple federal, state, and scientific institutions participated in the course with representation from 32 different states. The event consisted of an Incident Command System (ICS) course designed for a hypothetical outbreak of African swine fever and focusing on laboratory-centric objectives, a robust tabletop exercise, and informative laboratory tours.

“Since FADDL is the vanguard of foreign animal disease protection, I thought it propitious for Plum Island to develop and host a multi-agency training and exercise event to bolster preparedness,” said Kevin Reilly, PIADC Programs Manager. “This was a one-of-a-kind event that left its participants feeling decidedly more prepared.”

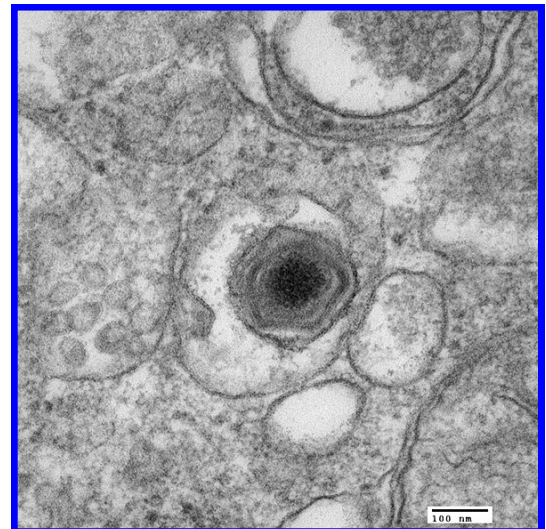
The tabletop exercise

The exercise simulated multiagency response efforts for the first 60 days of an African swine fever outbreak in multiple states. S&T and USDA wanted to observe and assess how lab communications performed during animal disease outbreaks and determine the efficacy of diagnostic strategies and surge response procedures to such incidents.

This emergency response exercise consisted of three modules: *Initial Outbreak* (days 1-3), *Surge Response* (days 4-24), and *Ongoing Response* (days 25-60). Each module began with a multimedia summary of key events from that time period, and then the participants reviewed the situation and discussed the appropriate response tactics. The participants practiced notification and communication strategies, deploying and recalling surge support staff, exploiting resource capabilities, processing samples, and prioritizing their efforts. Immediately after the exercise, participants discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the current incident response structure and lessons learned.

Potential impact

The event embodied the collaboration needed between federal, state, and academic partners to effectively respond to a foreign animal disease introduction.



“The emphasis of this particular exercise on the laboratory response was critical, and, I think, a unique perspective for such a large-scale tabletop,” said Dr. Jamie Barnabei, the Veterinary Medical Of-

(Continued on Pg. 7, “DHS ASF Exercise”)

(Continued from Pg. 6, "DHS ASF Exercise")

ficer for the North American Foot and Mouth Vaccine Bank.

During the event, diagnostic and response experts from various states engaged in a hypothetical – but realistic – outbreak scenario and had the opportunity to test the necessary response protocols.

"In the event of an African swine fever outbreak, or other serious Foreign Animal Disease outbreak in the continental United States, the abilities of the NAHLN Laboratories and PIADC to work together to effectively and efficiently provide testing to identify where the outbreak is and provide proof of negative disease status to impacted producers would be critical to disease eradication and the continuity of business," said Dr. Leslie Cole, a USDA Veterinarian and Emergency Coordinator. "This unique inter-agency training provided decision makers from these organizations the opportunity to learn how to imple-

ment a common operational framework and allowed them to practice how they would organize and respond."

All the agencies charged with animal disease outbreak preparedness have similar procedures and share common goals, but they seldom get to collaborate in person. This African swine fever training and exercise activity provided a unique opportunity for subject matter experts to meet each other and compare notes.

"Members of 32 NAHLN laboratories participated in training, demonstration and response exercises that will strengthen the ability of the U.S. animal diagnostics laboratories to be successful in addressing an incursion of African swine fever to this country, or any other diseases," said Dr. Christina M. Loiacno, a veterinarian and the USDA's NAHLN Coordinator.

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

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

[FSIS NOTICE 44-19 10/30/19](#)

**REMINDER FOR FSIS INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL OF
VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN RUMINANTS IMPORTED
FOR SLAUGHTER**

I. PURPOSE

This notice reminds inspection program personnel (IPP) of the instructions in FSIS Directive 9530.1, Importation of Live Canadian Cattle, Sheep, and Goats Into the United States (U.S.) and supplements the directive with clarification that any slaughter facility receiving live ruminants from Canada for slaughter must implement procedures to ensure that each animal is eligible for slaughter, including exotic species (e.g., bison) slaughtered under voluntary inspection. Further, this notice clarifies that IPP are to verify that each slaughter facility receiving live ruminants from Canada for slaughter has a written program in place to verify each individual animal ID against the Canadian export health certificate.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued the final rule, titled, "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Commodities; Unsealing of Means of Conveyance and Transloading of Products" (hereafter referred to as "Minimal-Risk Region rule") on November 28, 2005. In the rule, APHIS broadened the definition of who is authorized to break seals on conveyances importing certain ruminants from Canada (9 CFR 93.400).
- B. In 9 CFR 93.419 and 9 CFR 93.420, APHIS requires that ruminants imported from Canada for slaughter are to bear unique official identification (e.g., an official ear tag) and are to be accompanied by a Canadian export health certificate.
- C. Instructions for completing Veterinary Services (VS) Form 17-36, Inspection Report of Establishment for Immediate Slaughter Import Animals were updated on May 20, 2019, and now require that written procedures be developed for verifying individual animal IDs against the Canadian export Health certificate and approved by APHIS VS.

Taking a Multisectoral, One Health Approach: A Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries

Every day we hear about health challenges at the human-animal-environment interface. Zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza, rabies, Ebola, and Rift Valley fever continue to have major impacts on health, livelihoods, and economies. These health threats cannot be effectively addressed by one sector alone. Multi-disciplinary and multisectoral collaboration is needed to tackle them and to reduce their impacts.

As a way to support countries in taking a One Health approach to address zoonotic diseases, the guide: “Taking a Multisectoral, One Health Approach: A Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries” has been jointly developed by the Tripartite organizations (FAO, OIE, and WHO). This Guide, referred to as the Tripartite Zoonotic Guide (TZG) is flexible enough to be used for other health threats at the human-animal-environment interface; for example, food safety and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The TZG provides principles, best practices and options to assist countries in achieving sustainable and functional collaboration at the human-animal-environment interface. Examples and lessons learned from countries experiences are also included.

By using the TZG and its associated operational tools (which are currently being developed), countries can build or strengthen their national capacities in:



Options for monitoring and evaluating the impact of these activities are included allowing countries to make improvements in their zoonotic disease frameworks, strategies and policies. Moreover, taking the One Health approach presented in the TZG helps countries to make the best use of limited resources and reduces indirect societal losses, such as impacts on livelihoods of small producers, poor nutrition, and restriction of trade and tourism.

By working together and collaboratively, our global health systems are improved in a sustainable way ensuring an efficient prevention of the global health risks.

<https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/onehealth/controlling-health-risks/national-collaboration/>

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Food Safety and Inspection Service 9 CFR Parts 310, 327, 381, 424, 557, and 590

Publication Method for Lists of Foreign Countries Eligible To Export Meat, Poultry, or Egg Products to the United States

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is amending its regulations to remove lists of foreign countries eligible to export meat, poultry, and egg products to the United States. FSIS will maintain a single list of eligible foreign countries on its website. The criteria FSIS uses to evaluate whether a foreign country is eligible to export meat, poultry, or egg products has not changed. This rule will allow FSIS to more efficiently and clearly communicate equivalence determinations by maintaining a single list of exporting countries on its website, rather than maintaining one list on the website and outdated lists in the codified regulations. In addition, the Agency is amending its regulations to remove references to the lists.

DATES: Effective December 27, 2019.

Federal Veterinarians - Are You Prepared?



As you know, Federal Veterinarians are critical in ensuring the nation's food safety and animal/livestock health with innumerable food safety initiatives, guidelines through FSIS, APHIS, DHS, CDC, and FDA, and various animal health programs. Many federal veterinarians also have the dual role of a manager, supervisor or officer within their respective agency. **This leaves you extremely susceptible to allegations, complaints, or potential lawsuits- just for doing your job.** Are you emotionally, financially and legally prepared to become the subject of an adverse administrative action, disciplinary proceeding, or civil lawsuit?

The following is based off a real claims scenario from a federal veterinarian in which attorney fees totaled nearly \$115,000.

Picture this: You are the subject of an Internal Controls Staff investigation of employee accountability for the unsanitary conditions found at one of the meat processing plants you supervise, which had its operations suspended and resulted in the agency recalling over 50,000 lbs. of meat. The findings of the investigation lead the agency to propose your removal from federal service based on a charge of neglect of duty, alleging that you failed to perform your regulatory and supervisory duties at the meat processing plant. While you argue that your actions were consistent with sanitation guidelines, the agency maintains its position and issues a final decision to sustain that charge. You are forced to appeal and litigate your removal before the Merit Systems Protection Board, or risk losing your livelihood.

Without FEDS Protection:

You spend months paying out hourly fees to expensive federal employment attorneys in an attempt to defend yourself against the charges. The stress of the unknown begins to take a toll on your personal life, and as your savings begin to dwindle, you are forced to make the difficult decision to resign from federal employment in the best interest of your family's needs and finances and must begin looking for a new career.

Total out of pocket costs: \$112,702.04

With FEDS Protection:

You are assigned your own personal attorney specializing in federal employment law and MSPB appeals, paid for entirely by your PLI policy. Although it still takes months, your attorney handles all of the stressful paperwork and procedures, and succeeds in winning the appeal. You continue to be gainfully employed by your federal agency without loss in pay or grade and support your family as before.

Total out of pocket costs: \$280

The bottom line is, allegations are unsettling. If one is made against you - whether it comes from plant workers, special interest groups, politicians, members of the public, co-workers, subordinates or managers – the challenge is having the necessary finances and expertise to defend yourself successfully. FEDS Professional Liability Insurance provides you with both legal defense and indemnity protection against allegations arising from your federal position, so you can do your job with peace of mind.

FEDS Protection is Affordable:

\$1,000,000 Policy Limit; \$280 Annual Premium*

\$2,000,000 Policy Limit; \$380 Annual Premium*

50% Agency Reimbursement

All managers & supervisors are eligible for up to 50% agency reimbursement for a net cost of only \$140 per year.

***You must enter discount code "NAFV" for this pricing.**

Surplus lines taxes apply.

Your FEDS policy must be in place prior to any allegations or complaints in order for coverage to apply, so don't delay.

Enroll today at www.fedsprotection.com or call 866.955.FEDS.

USDA Proposes Updates to National Poultry Improvement Plan

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing updates to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) to align with changes in the poultry industry, as well as to incorporate new scientific information and technologies into the NPIP. These updates are consistent with the recommendations approved by representatives from across the poultry industry at the 2018 NPIP Biennial Conference.

As part of the proposal, APHIS would:

- create a new U.S. Newcastle Disease (ND) Clean program;
- update low pathogenic avian influenza regulations on indemnity and compensation;
- create an NPIP subpart specific to the game bird industry; and
- clarify/update the program regulations to match current scientific information and technologies.

The ND Clean program and compartment status would focus on primary breeder egg-type chickens, meat-type chickens, and turkeys – the animals that provide the foundation for the industry. Through the program, owners could show that their flocks meet all requirements to be considered unaffected by ND by both the Official State Agency and APHIS. The requirements for ND Clean compartments would be similar to those NPIP currently uses for the AI Clean compartments. This would allow clean flocks to participate in international and interstate trade, even during a ND outbreak. This will benefit not only the flock involved, but the overall industry, by keeping trade flowing.

The proposal would update NPIP regulations on

indemnity and compensation payments for low pathogenic avian influenza detections so they reflect current policy and operational practices. The proposal adds/clarifies definitions for various terms related to providing payments for animals, materials, cleaning and disinfection, and other steps needed for infected farms to return to normal business. The proposal also codifies the use of appraisal calculators to determine compensation amounts.

APHIS would also create an NPIP subpart specific to game birds, an industry that has grown rapidly and become more complex since its inception. The new subpart would align with the terminology, production methods, and end uses in the industry, which are significantly different than those in other poultry industries. The new subpart would add testing regimes, terminology, and programs specifically designed for the game bird industry.

USDA is accepting public comments on this proposed rule for 60 days following its publication in the Federal Register. The proposed rule may be viewed at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-23973>.

The NPIP is a cooperative Federal-State-industry mechanism for controlling certain poultry diseases. NPIP's objective is to provide a cooperative program through which new technology can be effectively applied to improve poultry and poultry products throughout the country.

APHIS recently published updated program standards, but the corresponding updates to the NPIP regulations are not yet published. Because several of the changes to the Program Standards are closely related to the regulation updates, APHIS is delaying the implementation of certain parts of the Program Standards until corresponding regulation changes are finalized.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/27092f6>

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service 9 CFR Part 166

Swine Health Protection Act; Amendments to Garbage Feeding Regulations

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending the Swine Health Protection Act regulations by removing the State status lists from the regulations in order to maintain these lists on the Agency's website. These changes will allow us to use a notice-based, streamlined approach to update the lists while continuing to protect swine health in the United States.

DATES: Effective December 23, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ross Free, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Dr. #200, Raleigh, NC 27606; email: Ross.a.Free@usda.gov; phone: (919) 855-7712.

New Beginnings...

NAFV Members,

As you may have noticed with the lengthening of my name, I recently got married to my longtime partner, Steven. We were married on November 2nd, in our parish here in the District of Columbia. It was a beautiful day and has thus far proven to be the start to a wonderful beginning.

In line with new beginnings, I am compelled to inform you that I will be leaving my role with NAFV as your Associate EVP at the end of this year. I am excited to have accepted a new opportunity with our longtime partner, Federal Employee Defense Services (FEDS Protection) to join their membership and agency outreach staff. I have truly enjoyed my time serving our organization and its membership, and I hope to have served you well.

I have particularly enjoyed having had the opportunity to get to know all of you and the critical work that you perform. I leave my time with NAFV with a strong impression that the work that federal veterinarians perform in keeping our nation's food supply safe and wholesome, along with how you support (in one way or another) human health via animal health and regulatory programs is critical and inspiring. In fact, many times these systems that you all ensure are working properly are often so successful, that the public cannot truly appreciate all that you do—for it's hard to illustrate what *hasn't* happened because you're on duty. That's why NAFV's role is so important, and it is what drives us here at the national office. We feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to inform the public and our nation's leaders about that role that you perform, and I hope that you all feel pride in having a staff that is dedicated to ensuring that you are all empowered to continue to play that role. To this point, if I can offer some departing thoughts, I'd like to encourage each of you to utilize the national office and the tools it can provide you to your advantage in your careers. We have some great resources available on our website, through our webinars, and in general, can grant you access to a great platform for information and exposure.

So whether you're looking to be connected to someone in an agency that you want to join, or are interested in having someone guide you through a difficult situation at work, or if you simply need help gathering information on an administrative-type process - call the national office! I can tell you from experience, it is the most rewarding part of the job and the best benefit an organization like ours can offer. Community is important, for we can all get much more done together than we can on our own - so don't do it all on your own. On the other side of this coin then, I also encourage you all that whenever possible, please become engaged in our committee work. Our committees' work is the backbone to the partnership with our members, because it's how we most effectively get to learn about the issues you're all facing. Our Board of Directors and Regional Coordinator positions especially guide the priorities we undertake as an organization and as your staff, so your participation in such is truly necessary. Furthermore, the committees we have been working to ignite over the past couple of years have the potential to make the benefits that you all enjoy better—not to mention they're a great opportunities for you all to gain national exposure and work with colleagues from across different agencies. So, if you have the time and expertise to contribute to any of the committees we have established, please get in touch with Dr. Joe Anelli (jfannelli@nafv.org) and Dr. Mike Gilsdorf (mgilsdorf@nafv.org) so they can guide you through how you can become involved.

So with this, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones and a very happy new year. I will be happy to stay in touch with each of you in the future, and I would be amiss if I didn't also highlight that you can all reach me for your professional liability insurance needs at mbtitus@fedsprotection.com. I look forward to continuing to serve you in that new capacity, and once again would like to thank you for the experience you have allowed me to gain.

Until next time,




Federal Veterinarians Protect and Improve Public and Animal Health and Welfare

Welcome New Members

Dr. Kristine M. Carter, FSIS, GS-11, UNK, Gordon, NE
Dr. Lewis Dodds, APHIS-VS, AUB '96, Raleigh, NC
Dr. Claire Dowdy, APHIS-VS, GS-12, UGA '19, Averne, NY
Dr. Angela Hines, APHIS, GS-12, MO '94, Indianapolis, IN
Dr Derrick Jones, FSIS, GS-11, TUS '18, Salisbury, MD
Dr. Jennifer Jones, FDA, GS-13, NCU '14, Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Iwona Popkowski, APHIS-VS, COR '14, New York, NY
Dr. Renate Reimschuessel, FDA, UP '81, Cheverley, MD
Dr. Jenny Powers, NPS, UC '00, Ft. Collins, CO
Dr. Teresa Schlansser, ARMY, UNK, University Place, WA
Dr. Justin Veazey, FSIS, GS-12, ROS '17, Laurel, MS
Dr. Lynn Wachtman, APHIS-VS, GS-12, COR '96, Avon, IN
Dr. Robert Washington, FSIS, GS-12, NCU '02, Farmington, AR

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