



FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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REMINDER

NAFV 2021 Dues will set to renew in January.

For those of you who are not enrolled in the automatic dues withholding program, your dues should be submitted no later than January 30, 2021.

With any questions, please reach out the National Office at nafv@nafv.org or 202-223-4878.

If you would like to enroll in automatic withholding, please also contact the national office for the forms.

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BOD Feature:

Outgoing President, Dr. Barb Porter-Spalding

By NAFV Staff | December 2020

Dr. Barb Porter-Spalding will finish her term on December 31, 2020. Before her departure, NAFV asked a few questions of Dr. Porter-Spalding to summarize her lessons learned and what she sees for NAFV's future.



1) Can you tell us a bit about your background and why you decided to run for NAFV presidency?

"I was fortunate to start my federal career with 4 years in FSIS, and really did not know about NAFV in those first years. I knew they were fighting for the VMOs to get paid for traveling on Sunday to get to an Est. for a Monday start. I was one of those that had to travel Sunday without getting paid, so I did join NAFV as soon as I heard about it.

Running for President seemed important at this point in my career; my networks are wider, friendships stronger, and I've learned some things about how to engage with AVMA to get things done. I also got to know Mike Gilsdorf and the struggles he faced as our Executive Vice-President and wanted to support him in his efforts."

2) You have been in NAFV Leadership for quite some time; you have seen NAFV help our members. What do you think has been the most important role that NAFV engages in?

"Over time I've gotten to know our Counsel, William Hughes, Esq. and the amazing role he has played in over 45 years of providing legal support to our members. I believe his experience and the great advice he continues to provide members is the best part of

NAFV. I cannot thank him enough for standing up for the federal veterinarian!

I think another role we must continue to play for our members is advocacy, both with our agencies and with Congress. Our EVP and fantastic executive staff are in a position to work with AVMA, the Ag Coalition and other Federal partners like NARFE to speak for the veterinary manager across the federal government. We will need all these partners and more to continue the fight for professional pay for DVMs in civil service. We may not reach parity with MDs, but we must educate Congress on the profession and the clear disparity. This has never been more important than today with federal veterinarians on the front lines at CDC and in our Food production establishments. I want to urge our membership to join AVMA and NARFE if you are not already members to show them we are worth partnering with.

I also am so glad we've gotten AAVPM back up and running to provide quality continuing educa-

(Continued on Pg. 2, "BPS Final")

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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 veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member. Dues are \$260.00 annually, payable annually, semiannually, PayPal (annually or monthly), or by federal payroll deductions (eligibility for payroll deduction is limited to USDA veterinarians (at this time)--of \$10.00 authorized by signing USDA Form AD 1054 (FSIS) or SF 1187 (APHIS)). Uniformed PHS veterinarians dues are \$160.00 annually. Active duty veterinarians are free.

Associate membership is granted to active members when they retire from federal service. Associate members pay no dues. We also have affiliate membership for city, county and state veterinarians at \$75 per year and veterinary student affiliates at \$10 per year. Or free to veterinary students enrolled in a USDA Scholars program.

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, "BPS Final")

tion to our membership for FREE! That effort has also brought us closer to two additional partners, the AAFSPHV and the ACVPM. I look forward to continuing and expanding those relationships. I also want to encourage our new VMOs to choose the path of lifelong learning. I know by keeping at least one State license and my accreditation status it has forced me to stay in touch with the rest of our profession and especially the food animal practitioners we regulate."

3) What do you think were some of the NAFV's best accomplishments during your term?

I think hiring Dr. Joe Anelli was the best idea I ever had! He has so many hidden talents that have helped NAFV out in so many ways in the past year; many of them on the fringes of veterinary medicine. His long experience in USDA, his talents in information technology, even his secret life as Santa Claus have all been extremely beneficial to our members. His creative and willingness to work beyond his ½ time with us (way beyond) has allowed NAFV to move into the virtual world, save limited funds, and without us knowing it was coming, prepare us for both COVID and the loss of our DC office back to AVMA. Without the ability to develop our new website, move to VOIP, introduce Constant Contact, just to name a few, we would likely still be operating in the red. Some members may see a loss of the printed newsletter, or the loss of the calendars as an irritation, but it has saved us a LOT of money we could no longer afford to spend. For that I am truly grateful for all his efforts."

4) Was there anything you want-

ed to achieve for NAFV that wasn't? Are there any priorities you think the incoming Executive Committee should be keen on?

"I think one thing I wish had gone better is increasing our membership from within USDA, particularly FSIS. We did make some inroads with our contest and free year for those bringing in more than 3 new members, and we will still offer that! But there have been so many retirements that it is very hard to keep up with the losses. I want to encourage every member, retired and active, to reach out to your fellow VMOs and encourage them to join their colleagues in the NAFV family. The more members we have, the more services and advocacy we can support. This also includes the PAC and the scholarship fund. I would love to send a check to a child of a NAFV member beginning veterinary school! If you know anyone with such a child, it would be worth joining just for that opportunity. We also truly need retired members to step up and run our PAC, and help the executive team on our legislative strategy.

5) You will be returning to the next Board of Directors as an APHIS Delegate. What do you envision will be some of the biggest challenges facing the association during the next two years?

"I believe our role in OneHealth will expand, and we need to support our agencies as they fight to get a piece of that funding. I want to get more of the VMOs at CDC engaged in NAFV and find out what we can do to support them. I would like to see the entire new BOD jump in and take an active role leading our committees and funding efforts, creatively broadening our reach and

(Continued on Pg. 3, "BPS Final")

(Continued from Pg. 2, "BPS Final")

the conversations we engage in on behalf of the federal veterinarian.

I also believe the FSIS PHVs and SPHVs are at a crisis point due to COVID and the continuing vacancy rates. The answer is not to give over PHV roles to non-DVMs but expand our ability to reach out to private practitioners who are struggling and let them know there are jobs with great OneHealth opportunities and benefits to be had in USDA. We must get FSIS leadership to listen to the voices of the exhausted PHVs and strongly advocate for them on supervision and management of the future workforce. We must have solutions to offer however, so we need more voices from FSIS to be heard through a strong membership. I am looking forward to working with the FSIS members of the BOD to see if we can shake things up a bit."

5) Do you see the role of federal veterinarians evolving over time? How so?

"Many of our roles and jobs have not changed in decades, and we can expect some of those func-

tions that protect the public and agriculture will continue unchanged. I do believe that one of the most important ways that federal veterinarians need to evolve is in our ability to manage and lead in a full 360 degree approach. Are we learning and leveraging our leadership skills in ways that promote veterinary leaders of these critical USDA agencies or will we continue to take a back seat and let laymen without the technical knowledge have the senior positions in our agencies. Are we providing the best customer service we can within our regulatory functions, and within our association. Our agencies get more technical with time, and we must be available to train and support our technicians and inspectors as well as develop the political savvy needed to persuade leadership of a path best taken.

Thank you for supporting NAFV and please continue to expect NAFV to support you!"

**BOD Feature:
Incoming President, Dr. Deanna Brown**

By NAFV Staff | December 2020

Dr. Deanna Brown is set to begin her term on January 1, 2021. At the same time that we reached out to Dr. Porter-Spalding to tell us about the insight she had as she was finishing her presidency, we reached out to Dr. Brown to tell us about her vision for NAFV's future and what her priorities will be for the next two years.

1) Can you tell us a bit about your background and why you decided to run for NAFV presidency?

"I graduated Vet School from Mississippi State University in 1990. During my first year in a dairy practice in Wisconsin, my National Guard unit was alerted for activation for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. After much thought, I chose to change my branch to the Army Veterinary Corps and entered active service with the Vet

Corps in 1991. I initially planned to spend just one tour then to return to practice. However, I quickly grew to love the public service mission. I particularly enjoyed the veterinary role in public health and the One Health approach rather than a clinical medical role. I enjoyed the feeling that what we do truly makes a difference in people's lives and in their health. I retired from the military after 20 years and knew I wanted to transition into another public service/public health career. I transitioned to USDA FSIS where I was assigned to Springdale district.

I have been a member of



AVMA since graduating vet school and joined NAFV for a portion of my military career. I have always felt strongly about the importance of supporting organized veterinary medicine but never become

(Continued on Pg. 4, "DB Intro...")

(Continued from Pg. 3, "DB Intro...")

actively involved in the associations while in the military. Once joining FSIS, I quickly became aware of challenges facing public health veterinarians and the importance that someone advocates on their behalf. I learned how hard NAFV works on behalf of federal veterinarians and felt the need to do my part. I became involved in the association's efforts first by serving as FSIS BOD member, then Secretary Treasurer. These roles taught me the extent of NAFV's efforts and how difficult it is to affect change. I also learned how important it is for all federal veterinarians to support the association and for members to volunteer to help with these efforts. It can't be done by our DC staff and a handful of volunteers. After my second year as Secretary Treasurer, I was asked if I would consider running for President. I had to think long and hard and wasn't sure I was up for the challenge but decided to go for it. I feel honored to be given this opportunity and to have spent two years as President Elect working with Barbara Porter Spalding. Under her leadership we have made progress towards many of our goals, but there is still much to be done. As I begin my time as President, I look forward to the challenges and am excited about what NAFV is doing. We have an outstanding team in DC as well as volunteers on the BOD, coordinators, and committees. I feel confident that that we can continue to make progress toward these efforts.

- 2) **You have been in NAFV Leadership for quite some time, of what you have seen**

NAFV help our members through, what do you think is the most important role that you have seen NAFV engaged in?

"In my time with NAFV, I have seen the association assist many federal veterinarians through personal struggles through legal advice and assistance. That is an invaluable service that NAFV offers. However, the most long-lasting achievements are those that affect our constituents as a whole and to improve the overall federal work environment. Short staffing of federal veterinarians has been a problem for many years and is getting worse. NAFV was the leading player in obtaining targeted funding from congress to assist with recruitment and retention efforts of federal veterinarians in FSIS. This money not only provided for recruitment and retention bonuses, but also funding for CME for all. NAFV's efforts are close to achieving true overtime pay for APHIS. I feel it is equally important to both be a strong advocate for the federal veterinary mission and also to be liaison between our members and leadership of the federal agencies. Without either of the functions, we risk the future of veterinarians in federal service.

We are a very small portion of the overall veterinary profession and a very small component of the overall federal workforce. We're easy to overlook and for many to take for granted. Without a voice, others may forget or simply not recognize the important role we play in both animal and human health. Congress and the American public need to be aware of what we do to ensure

adequate funding and protection of our mission. We need to ensure that agencies compensate properly then to treat our members fairly to recruit and retain the highest quality veterinarians in the federal workforce. If NAFV isn't there to do these functions, it will not be done."

- 3) **What will be some of the priorities you will be focused on during your Presidency (2021-2022)?**

"My priorities will be two-fold: first is to keep our association viable and financially solvent. Second is to keep working towards efforts that improve overall working conditions and benefits for all federal veterinarians. To be viable and financially solvent, that means we need to build our membership. With overall federal veterinary numbers shrinking, that means we need a higher percentage to join and support our efforts. Efforts to improve overall working conditions will be primarily to pursue strategies to make federal service financially equitable to private practice or corporate service. We must also ensure that our veterinarians are supported and treated fairly by the agencies that they work for. "

- 4) **How do you see yourself engaging with our members during your term?**

"I expect this will be primarily through messages in "The Federal Veterinarian" and through periodic town hall meetings that I hope we can continue having. We want our members to know what we are doing, and we need our members to communicate with us. The NAFV leadership and I

(Continued on Pg. 5, "DB Intro...")

(Continued from Pg. 4, “DB Intro...”) are here to serve our members. We need to know that we are heading in the right direction.”

5) **What do you envision will be some of the biggest challenges facing the association during the next two years?**

The biggest immediate challenge for the association is maintaining our membership at a level that allows us to be sustainable. Right now, we are very borderline. We can't continue to perform our critical functions without enough members and cash flow to perform those critical functions. The reduction in membership is due at least in part to the significant short staffing of the federal veterinary workforce. It's a vicious cycle. As agencies continue to work short staffed, veterinarians routinely perform duties that used to be

2-3 veterinary positions. It's stretching our workforce thin and exacerbating many of the problems that contributed to recruitment and retention problems. It's difficult to have work-life balance and to perform our public health duties to the best of our ability. So, it's imperative that we help these agencies in efforts to recruit and retain vets while at the same time we need these new veterinarians to support us... so we can continue the fight.”

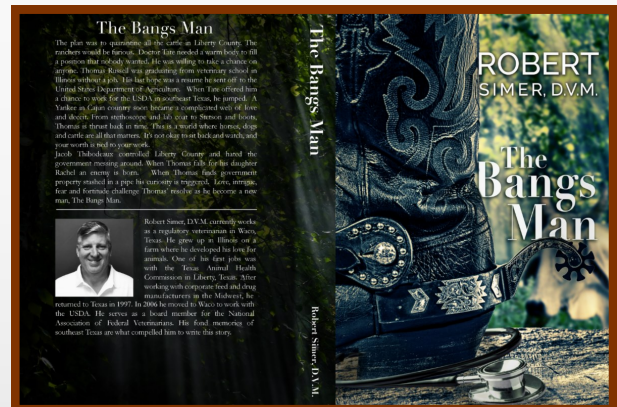
6) **Do you see the role of federal veterinarians evolving over time? How so?**

“Many of the old disease threats that our predecessors faced have been controlled. We've done our jobs well. Because of this, the federal veterinarian's role has evolved into positions that focus on surveillance and monitoring animal

disease control programs and our food safety systems. We are key members of the “One Health” team to ensure that zoonotic and foodborne This requires our veterinarians to think “bigger picture” and to be risk focused. I feel this trend will continue and the way we perform our missions will continue to evolve. We should be prepared to think outside of the box on how to perform our key missions better and more efficiently. At the same time, we need to anticipate and maintain the capacity to handle new and emerging disease threats. I think COVID has taught us that infectious diseases are not always predictable and can affect our country in ways that we did not anticipate. We need to be ready for the next disease threat.”

**Federal Veterinarian Book Selection:
THE BANGS MAN**

The plan was to quarantine all the cattle in Liberty County. The ranchers would be furious. Doctor Tate needed a warm body to fill a position that nobody wanted. He was willing to take a chance on anyone. Thomas Russell was graduating from veterinary school in Illinois without a job. His last hope was a resume he sent off to the United States Department of Agriculture. When Tate offered him a chance to work for the USDA in southeast Texas, he jumped.



A Yankee in Cajun country soon became a complicated web of love and deceit. From stethoscope and lab coat to Stetson and boots, Thomas is thrust back in time. This is a world where horses, dogs and cattle are all that matter.

About the author:

Robert Simer, D.V.M. currently works as a regulatory veterinarian in Waco, Texas. He grew up in Illinois on a farm where he developed his love for animals. One of his first jobs was with the Texas Animal Health Commission in Liberty, Texas. After working with corporate feed and drug manufacturers in the Midwest, he returned to Texas in 1997. In 2006 he moved to Waco to work with the USDA. He serves as a board member for the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. His fond memories of southeast Texas are what compelled him to write this story.

[BUY BOOK](#)

Confirmation of COVID-19 in a Snow Leopard at a Kentucky Zoo

Source: [APHIS](#) | 12/11/2020

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) today announced the first confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) infection in a snow leopard at the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky. This is the first snow leopard in the United States to test positive for SARS-CoV-2. Confirmatory testing is ongoing for two other snow leopards at the zoo.

Samples from three snow leopards were taken after they showed signs of respiratory illness. All three of the snow leopards are expected to fully recover. **It is suspected that they acquired the infection from an asymptomatic staff member, despite precautions taken by the zoo.**

SARS-CoV-2 infections have been reported in a small number of animals worldwide, mostly in animals that had close contact with a person with COVID-19. At this time, routine testing of animals is not recommended. State and local animal health and public health officials will work with USDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make determinations about whether animals should be tested for SARS-CoV-2, using a [One Health](#) approach.

USDA will announce cases of confirmed SARS-CoV-2 in animals each time the virus is found in a new species. Confirmed cases in animals are updated weekly and are posted at <https://bit.ly/3o3FKNZ>.

The snow leopards tested presumptive positive for SARS-CoV-2 at the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which then reported the results to state and federal officials. The confirmatory testing was conducted at NVSL. NVSL serves as an international reference laboratory and provides expertise and guidance on diagnostic techniques, as well as confirmatory testing for foreign and emerg-



ing animal diseases. Such testing is required for certain animal diseases in the U.S. in order to comply with national and international reporting procedures. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) considers SARS-CoV-2 an emerging disease, and therefore USDA must report confirmed U.S. animal infections to the OIE.

While additional animals may test positive as infections continue in people, it is important to note that performing this animal testing does not reduce the availability of tests for humans.

We are still learning about SARS-CoV-2 in animals, but there is currently no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus to people. Based on the information available, the risk of animals spreading the virus to people is considered to be low.

It appears that people with COVID-19 can spread the virus to animals during close contact. It is important for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to avoid contact with pets and other animals to protect them from possible infection.

For more information about COVID-19 and animals and recommendations for pet owners, visit <https://bit.ly/3rFtiWK>.

Prudential Financial Wellness Webinars Reminder

Members, we are making Prudential Financial Webinar and complimentary advisory sessions for free!

All webinar information is being sent via email every week. With questions, please contact NAFV National Office at nafv@nafv.org.

Your goals matter. We can help you reach them.

Make a plan with GreenPath for your financial health. Call (877) 444-5606 to schedule a free debt consultation today. Use code: G266690

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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.

NAFV Writes to Government Leaders Urging to Include Veterinarians in COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

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December 3, 2020

The Honorable Secretary Sonny Perdue
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington DC, 20250

VIA EMAIL: sonny.perdue@usda.gov

Dear Secretary Perdue:

It is imperative that we ensure people working in processing plants are prioritized appropriately in Tier 1 and 2 of the distribution plan for COVID-19 vaccine. This is necessary to ensure a continued safe, wholesome and abundant food supply, as well as worker health, during a resurgence of COVID-19 cases as we are currently experiencing.

On March 13, 2020 the President of the United States issued [Proclamation 9994](#) Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak, which declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020. Since then, on April 28, 2020 the President issued an [Executive Order](#) on Delegating Authority Under the Defense Production Act with Respect to Food Supply Chain Resources During the National Emergency Caused by the Outbreak of COVID-19.

It is important that processors of beef, pork, and poultry (“meat and poultry”) in the food supply chain continue operating and fulfilling orders to ensure a continued supply of protein for Americans. However, outbreaks of COVID-19 among workers at some processing facilities have led to the reduction in some of those facilities’ production capacity. In addition, actions in some States have led to the complete closure of some large processing facilities. Such actions may differ from or be inconsistent with interim guidance recently issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Department of Labor entitled “Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers” providing for the safe operation of such facilities.

As a result, we ask you to ensure that processing plant employees and their federal and State in-plant regulatory employees are among the first to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Please see the attached for further justification for this request.

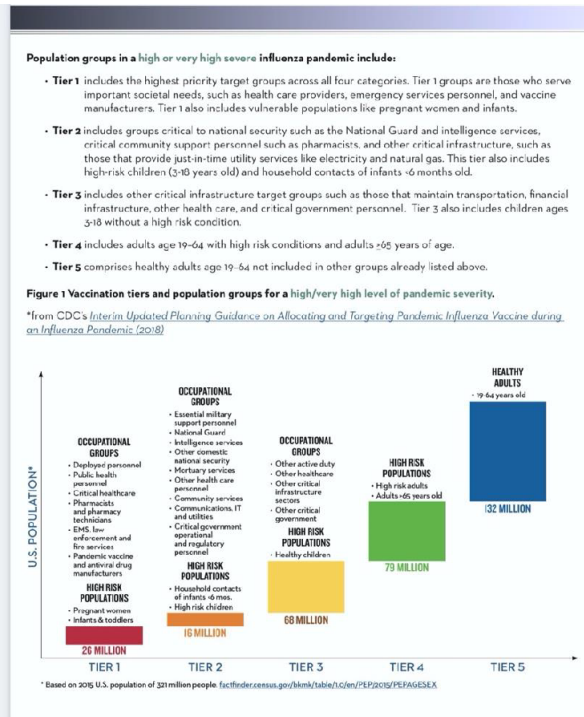
Thank you,

Joseph F. Anelli DVM, MS
Executive Vice President
National Association of Federal Veterinarians

ENCLOSURE 1: Justification for Request:

The [COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM INTERIM PLAYBOOK FOR JURISDICTION OPERATIONS – October 29, 2020](#) states in:

Section 1: Public Health Preparedness Planning



Pandemic vaccination response planning requires collaboration among a wide range of public- and private-sector partners, including immunization and public health emergency preparedness programs, emergency management agencies, healthcare organizations, industry groups that include **critical infrastructure sectors**, policy makers, and community vaccination providers (e.g., pharmacies, occupational health settings, doctors’ offices). [This document goes on to say on Page 14]:

Related Guidance and Reference Materials

CDC’s [Roadmap to Implementing Pandemic Influenza Vaccination of Critical Workforce](#) provides additional information and tools for state and local planners on how to operationalize and implement specific plans for

targeting critical workforce groups during an influenza pandemic response. The document also includes tools and resources for tracking progress on critical workforce vaccination planning and activities within a jurisdiction. Though currently specific to an influenza pandemic, it may help to inform the approach for COVID-19 vaccination planning for critical workforce.

[Our members are both Tier 1 and Tier 2 population groups and should be among the first to be vaccinated. I am concerned that, even with the recent experience of meat and poultry shortages as a result of COVID in packing plants, that veterinarians, food safety inspectors and packing plant workers will be forgotten in the finalization of the priority distribution plan].

We ask your help to ensure the Food sector, as a critical infrastructure, is included in Tier 1 and 2 vaccination priority scenarios.

NAFV also submitted a version of this letter to Secretary Alex Azar of the Department of Human Health Service. In addition, there was a joint NAMI/NCBA/NPPC letter sent to every state governor that supported prioritizing workers on farms and in packing plants, specifically including inspection personnel from USDA. Also, state livestock groups have reached out to their state governors and public health officials, using talking points put together by the ag association CEOs group (which includes livestock and crop commodity groups, meat and poultry industry associations, as well as non-USDA regulated foods associations). The CEOs group also sent a separate similar letter to President Trump and President-Elect Biden.

All of these groups have weighed in on the importance of prioritizing the personnel in meat and poultry plants (including federal inspectors) in that [Phase 1-B](#) (or state equivalent) group for vaccinations.

NAFV EVP Writes to Industry Reporter on the Biden Transition COVID-19 Task Force

Hi Lev,

I appreciated your article:

[Biden transition team unveils members of Covid-19 task force](#)

By LEV FACHER @levfacher

NOVEMBER 9, 2020

As I represent the National Association of Federal Veterinarians I'd like to point out a gap in the task force expertise. Given that 75% of all new emerging infections diseases are of animal origin, including COVID-19, there is no animal health expert (veterinary public health) expert on the team.

Anything you could do to raise awareness of this would be greatly appreciated and necessary for a complete COVID response program. With the Netherlands considering depopulating mink due to SARS CoV-2 antigenic changes and susceptibility of domestic and wild (zoo) cats you really need someone to focus on the backdoor anomalies that could significantly impact human health.

Please let me know if I can be of any help in providing additional information let me know.

Thank you,



Joseph Anelli
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
1910 Sunderland Pl, NW

New USDA FSIS Requirements for Shell Eggs Top Five Things You Need to Know - From EAS

Source: [EAS Consulting](#) | December 2020

USDA Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) recently issued the first regulatory update of the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) since 1970, called the Egg Products Inspection Regulations (EPIR) which modernizes the industry requirements and FSIS inspection of shell eggs. This landmark update requires development of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plans and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs) and includes egg substitutes and freeze-dried egg products.

Top Five Things You Need to Know:

- 1) Continuous FSIS inspections will be eliminated – with a focused emphasis on “for cause” and unscheduled inspections.
- 2) Prescriptive HACCP and SSOP Rules are out the window – requiring each shell egg producer is required to write and implement a HACCP Plan and supporting SSOPs, specific to their operations, facilities and equipment.
- 3) HACCP and SSOP programs must be supported by monitoring records that include egg traceability.
- 4) The written Food Safety program that includes the HACCP plan and supporting SSOPs must include labeling compliance with special handling instructions, meeting applicable FDA regulations.
- 5) Importers of shell egg products will see new entry requirements in line with those of meat and poultry.

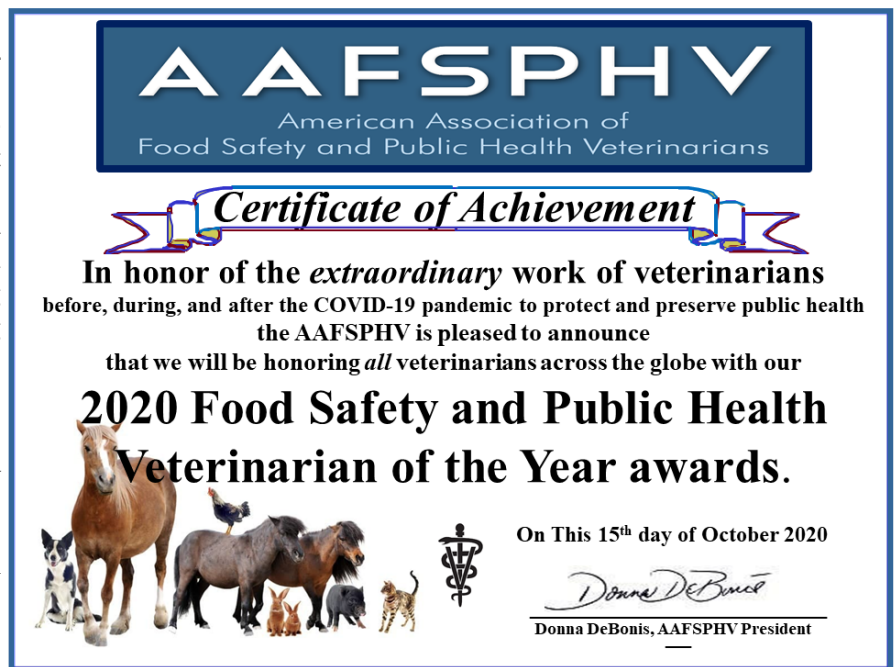
FSIS also sat down with FoodSafetyNews to answer some questions about the new requirements.
Read the full interview below.

[Q&A with USDA FSIS: Modernizing Egg Products Inspection Methods](#)

American Association of Public Health and Food Safety Veterinarians Recognizes the Efforts of All Veterinarians Worldwide in the Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic with a Certificate of Achievement

Source: AAFSPHV | 10/15/2020

Although primarily a human disease, COVID-19 has highlighted the increasing importance of a cross-sectoral approach to public health that aligns with One Health principles. As veterinarians, we are well-acquainted and trained to such an approach and already play a key role in protecting public health on a daily basis, during both times of peace and times of trouble. We protect the world's food supply, prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases that impact both animals and humans, ensure vaccines and drugs are safe and effective, perform epidemiological investigations of human and animal disease outbreaks, promote and preserve the human-animal bond, and much more.



However, in what will likely become the greatest public health crisis in a century, veterinarians across the globe can be found rising to the occasion and going above and beyond the call of duty to use our unique and comprehensive skill sets to protect and save the lives of both humans and animals during the coronavirus pandemic. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Donating essential materials from veterinary pet hospitals such as personal protective equipment and ventilators
- Developing effective public health interventions and assisting with the tracking and surveillance of human and animal disease
- Ensuring the safety of our food supply while working with producers and government officials to identify solutions and respond to the impacts the pandemic has had on our food production systems
- Offering essential care to both companion and food animals while implementing appropriate precautions to protect the health of patients, clients, and veterinary staff

Each year, the American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians (AAFSPHV) recognizes a veterinarian's outstanding accomplishments in the fields of veterinary food safety and public health with the Food Safety Veterinarian and Public Health Veterinarian of the Year awards. According to the AAFSPHV Executive President, Dr. Donna DeBonis, "*This year is exceptional in so many ways, and so must be our award.*"

In honor of the extraordinary work of veterinarians before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic to protect and preserve public health, the AAFSPHV is pleased to announce that we will be honoring ALL veterinarians, across the globe, with our 2020 Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarian of the Year awards.

Dr. DeBonis states, "*This Certificate of Achievement can be downloaded from <http://www.aaphv.org/> and is suitable for display and framing in the veterinarian's office. We extend our sincere gratitude to our colleagues for a job well done, knowing that many challenges still lie ahead. And no one is better suited to rise up to these challenges in partnership with our human and environmental health counterparts than the veterinary profession. Thank you for your efforts and keep up the great work!*"

Federal Veterinarians Protect and Improve Public and Animal Health and Welfare

Welcome New Members

Dr. Megan Visger, FSIS, GS-12, MO UNK, Bismark, ND

Dr. Randall S. Verink, FSIS, GS-12, ILL '84, Lock Haven, PA

National Association of Federal Veterinarians
Periodicals postage paid
1910 Sunderland Place
at Washington, DC
Washington, DC 20036

Active Members We Have Lost Touch With

We have lost touch with the following list of members. If you know them, please prompt them to reach out to us at 202-223-4878.

- Naser Awad
- Stanley Baker
- Roy Burns
- Leonard Beohland
- Robert Bonifacio
- Thomas Burleson
- Douglas Carmichael
- Anwarul H. Chaugry
- Kaila Chung
- Beth P. Cunningham
- Ahmed Dariwsh
- Richard Elliott
- Tim B. Falls
- William Fanning
- Diane R. Forbes
- William Fuhrman
- David Gallatin
- Roger Garner
- Robert Gilkerson
- Bettina Helm
- Darin Holmes
- Rex Holt
- Edward Jones
- Henry (Pete) Kautman
- Mohammad Khan
- Timothy B. King
- Lennis C. Knight
- Michael R. Kollar
- Stephen Lewis
- John D. Long
- Jeffrey Melander
- William T. Melton
- Janice Miller
- Lewis Mitchell
- Daniel Novilla
- David Norman
- Jeffrey L. Nulph
- Hashim Osman
- Jon W. Owen
- Gerald Ramkison
- Vishnu N. Ramnarie
- Elliott Ramos
- Darryl Reynolds
- Neil E. Rippke
- Darryl Robinson
- William Rogers
- Donald Savage
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- Fred Soltero
- Jocelyn Sumbry
- Scott Thomas
- Gary Walch
- Roanld Waldrop
- Noreen R. Walsh
- Ulysses Whitworth
- James L. Wilkus