



# FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Debating Our New Logo & Centennial Pins

In honor NAFV's Centennial year, we are debuting a new logo - please see the new logo above.

We also have NAFV Centennial lapel pins available for members to purchase.

Details and picture on Pg. 11.

With questions, please contact the NAFV national office at 202-223-4878.

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

In this month's look back on NAFV's first 100 years, we recall a 2005 notice from APHIS and the launch of its NAIS online resource. Later on page 2, we can appreciate how much the program has progressed over the past 13 years in the latest notice on modernization efforts aimed at electronic traceability.

The Following APHIS notice is being re-printed verbatim, as was printed in the March 2005 issue of the *Federal Veterinarian* newsletter.



## Federal Veterinarian

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### USDA Launches Website Focusing on the National Animal Identification System

Washington, Jan 25, 2005 - The US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today announced the launch of a new Web site to inform stakeholders about the national animal identification system (NAIS). The Web site, available at <http://www.usda.gov/nais>, is designed to be a one-stop resource to facts about NAIS.

"We hope our stakeholders will visit the site frequently to find out the latest news about the NAIS from a national perspective," said APHIS Administrator W. Ron DeHaven. "It will be updated regularly as new information becomes available."

In addition to providing national news, the site provides contact information for state and tribal animal health authorities. The states and tribes are responsible for providing each premises under

their purview with a nationally unique identification number - the starting point of the NAIS. All states should be able to assign nationally unique premises identification numbers to locations where animals are managed or held by mid-2005.

Over time, APHIS plans to add to the new website resources targeted to specific species and industry-segment groups. Currently, NAIS working groups comprised of industry and government representatives have been established for

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Over time, APHIS plans to add to the new website resources targeted to specific species and industry-segment groups. Currently, NAIS working groups comprised of industry and government representatives have been established for cattle and bison, sheep, swine, poultry, horses, llamas and alpacas, deer and elk, and livestock markets and processors.

In implementing the NAIS, USDA's goal is to provide animal health officials the ability to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. As an information system that provides for rapid tracing of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, the NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained and eradicated as quickly as possible.

With the recent passage of the Fiscal Year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act, APHIS will receive approximately \$33 million for NAIS implementation. USDA also transferred \$18.8 million from its Commodity Credit Corporation to APHIS during fiscal year 2004 to support the NAIS.

(Continued on Pg. 2, "NAIS")

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Any non-uniformed veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member. Dues are \$234.00 annually, payable annually, semiannually, or by federal payroll deductions (eligibility for payroll deduction is limited to USDA veterinarians—of \$9.00 authorized by signing USDA Form AD 1054 (FSIS) or SF 1187 (APHIS)). Uniformed veterinarians dues are \$150.00 annually. *Active duty* uniformed veterinarians- please contact the NAFV office.

Associate membership may be granted to active members when they retire from federal service. Associate members pay no dues. Associate mailed subscriptions are \$25.00 per year.

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians is a non-profit corporation and the purposes for which it is formed are to promote the veterinary profession, to improve the professional efficiency and material interests of the members, to acquaint the public with the activities of veterinarians in the federal service, and to cooperate with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the United States Animal Health Association and other similar groups with common interests.

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(Continued from Pg. 1, "NAIS")

cattle and bison, sheep, swine, poultry, horses, llamas and alpacas, deer and elk, and live-stock markets and processors.

In implementing the NAIS, USDA's goal is to provide animal health officials the ability to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease

of concern within 48 hours after discovery. As an information system that provides for rapid tracing of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, the NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained and eradicated as quickly as possible.

## USDA Outlines Next Steps for Advancing Animal Disease Traceability

*September 25, 2018, Washington D.C.* – Today, Greg Ibach, Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Marketing and Regulatory Programs, announced USDA's four overarching goals for advancing animal disease traceability to protect the long-term health, marketability and economic viability of the U.S. livestock industry.

"The landscape surrounding animal disease traceability has changed dramatically in the past decade, and producers across the nation recognize that a comprehensive system is the best protection against a devastating disease outbreak like foot-and-mouth disease" Ibach said. "We have a responsibility to these producers and American agriculture as a whole to make animal disease traceability what it should be—a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter using affordable technology that allows USDA to quickly trace sick and exposed animals to stop disease spread."

USDA's four overarching goals for increasing traceability are:

- Advance the electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians and industry; including sharing basic animal disease traceability data with the federal animal health events repository (AHER).
- Use electronic ID tags for ani-

mals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient;

- Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected; and
- Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to state animal health officials.

These goals reflect the core themes resulting from a State and Federal Animal Disease Traceability Working Group that developed 14 key points for advancing traceability. They are also in keeping with feedback APHIS received at stakeholder meetings held across the country to hear from industry and producers directly.

USDA recognizes that some sectors of the livestock industry have already invested a lot of infrastructure into developing their traceability programs. These new goals complement what those sectors are already doing, and will help increase traceability across the entire industry. USDA is committed to continued discussion and collaboration to ensure we coordinate traceability efforts across the country.

(Continued on Pg. 3, "Traceability")

(Continued from Pg. 2, "Traceability")

While electronic ID is critical for advancing traceability, it's important to emphasize USDA will not dictate the use of a specific tag technology. Different industries prefer different tag types (low frequency vs. ultra high frequency) and choice will continue to be a cornerstone of USDA's program, giving producers the ability to decide what works best for their operations. Not only will electronic ID allow animals to move more quickly through ports, markets and sales, it will also help ensure rapid response when a disease event strikes.

To assist with the transition to electronic ID, USDA is ending the free metal tags program and instead offering a cost-share for electronic tags. This is something stakeholders have repeatedly told us they need to help transition to electronic ID.

"Another key component of our plan is sharing a few key data elements from existing state and indus-

try animal movement databases with our animal health events repository," said Ibach. "That way, if an outbreak occurs, we can quickly find the information we need to locate and identify potentially diseased or at-risk animals. This helps avoid unnecessary quarantines that could impact producers' livelihoods. And by linking to that information instead of housing it ourselves, we maintain our stakeholders' privacy."

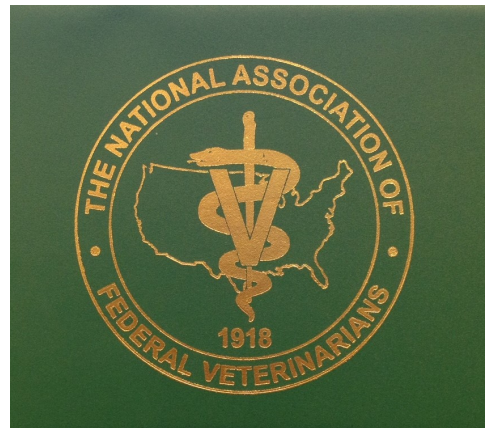
Moving forward, USDA wants to continue to build on the current momentum around animal disease traceability, and will begin implementing these ADT goals starting in fiscal year 2019. USDA will work with our state partners and industry to establish appropriate benchmarks to meet to show progress. USDA will also ensure all new traceability cooperative agreements will be contingent on measurable advancements toward these three goals.

Original source: APHIS - <https://content.govdelivery.com/>

## WE ARE OFFICIALLY TAKING ORDERS FOR THE 2019 NAFV POCKETBOOK CALENDARS!

To order your calendar, please contact Ms. Mariana Barros at [mbarros@nafv.org](mailto:mbarros@nafv.org) or 202-223-4878.

If you would like a cover replacement, please include a note saying as much in your request.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

WASHINGTON, DC **FSIS NOTICE** 46-18 9/6/18

### ANALYSIS FOR SALMONELLA OF ALL IMPORTED BEEF PRODUCTS SAMPLED FOR SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* (STEC)

#### I. PURPOSE

This notice reissues FSIS Notice 14-17, *Analysis for Salmonella of All Imported Beef Products Sampled for Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC)* with only minor changes.

#### KEY POINTS:

- Raw beef samples, including import MT08 and MT51 samples, collected for STEC analysis will also be analyzed for *Salmonella*
- The *Salmonella* analysis result is non-regulatory, and if positive, the product is not to be refused entry
- Instructions for notifying the importer of record (IOR) when a sample tests positive for *Salmonella* but is negative for STECs

#### II. BACKGROUND

FSIS does not consider *Salmonella* an adulterant in raw meat products. Therefore, a positive test result for *Salmonella* in imported raw beef products, sampled by FSIS inspection program personnel (IPP), does not require a regulatory control action to be taken.

Full notice available at: <https://bit.ly/2OkCfE4>



## NAFV EVP Column

### REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP INPUT

#### *Marvin Meinders, DVM, MVPM*

The purpose of this article is to discuss with the membership and request support and assistance on the financial status of NAFV. NAFV Board of Directors and staff want to do more to support federal veterinarians. However, we are limited by two things, finances and volunteers to help make the improvements that are wanted and often needed. NAFV has been good stewards of your dues as testified by not having a dues increase in 15 years, although we have been successful protecting every federal veterinarian's current benefits over the past six years from constant congressional threats to reduce them, getting approval of true time and a half for overtime worked by FSIS, and APHIS (partially); obtaining \$7.5 M for FSIS last year for recruiting to relieve their severe shortage; \$7.5 M for APHIS for TX cattle tick fever, Avian Influenza, and Wildlife management, meeting with agency management with important issues and recommendations, and many other issues including assisting veterinarians with administrative and professional issues affecting their employment. Nonetheless, making ends meet has not always been possible, and we have had to dip into our reserve fund the last two years to help ensure these accomplishments. You know from your personal experiences how much cost of living has increased the last 15 years.

Of course, the best way to increase revenue is by increasing membership. As always, NAFV officers and staff are doing all they can to recruit new members, but they need your assistance. The NAFV Board of Directors and national staff are asking all the members to reach out to nonmembers informing them about what NAFV has done for federal veterinarians in the past and what NAFV can do now with additional involved members. The NAFV BOD members and NAFV staff can assist you in recommending membership to nonmembers, and referring their names and contact info to NAFV so that we will be able to contact them and send information.

In order to support this focus effort and support you as you contact nonmembers, we plan to expand our services in a couple of areas in 2019 that members have been asking for since I have been here. The first one is to offer continuing education courses which will be free of charge to our members. Our current plan is to offer two courses every quarter. The courses will not only be related to veterinary medicine but also personal and career development courses such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness

program, financial management during the different stages of life, and items of interest from our NAFV legal counsel on topics such as how to avoid the most common legal issues facing federal veterinarians. In order to save cost, reach the members all across the US, and be able to offer the planned continuing education, we will be offering the courses as webinars.

The second initiative is to develop a blog on our NAFV website behind the Members Only area. This will allow members who are knowledgeable in a subject or feel strongly about it to voice their thoughts while keeping their thoughts out of the general public. For those members that are not interested in commenting, they can monitor the subject and learn more about it. Blogs have shown to get people to communicate with each other, allow for knowledge sharing, and to get insight from their peers. We also would like to try a blog at NAFV in order to help us keep our finger on the pulse of the membership.

Although there will be some cost to providing these additional services, we are trying to be good stewards of your dues with these additional services just as we have been in the past, gaining members in the process. However, we may need to reevaluate the potential for a limited dues increase in the future if we cannot generate additional members.

Please let us know your thoughts on the budget issue and what we can do to support you on your outreach to nonmembers. We also always welcome recommendations on other initiatives you think are important for us to work on.

**With comments or recommendations, please contact [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org) or 202-223-4878.**

#### REMINDER:

**Login required for NAFV member-only forum on website.**

**Members, when we redesigned our NAFV website in 2017, we switched over from the generic username and password to individual login & passwords.**

**Last year, we sent out a notice asking members to contact us to get their new credentials. If you have not received your individual login & password, please email [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org).**

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program: A Breakdown by NAFV Member Dr. Diana Care

In 2016, the AVMA estimated that 80% of newly graduated veterinarians had student loans, and for these graduates the [average student loan amount](#) was \$167,000. For federal veterinarians with student loans there is a program which may provide relief. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF) is a program which forgives certain types of student loans after borrowers make on-time payments for 10 years while working for a qualifying employer.

While many federal veterinarians are already aware of this program, many that I have come across are not quite clear on the specifics of the program nor how they could benefit from it. Below, I have put together some preliminary information that I hope will clarify some of those questions.

### ***What types of employment qualify?***

Working full-time as a federal employee qualifies for PSLF! Other types of qualifying employment include working for the military, the state, or 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. If a vet works part-time, they can qualify for PSLF by working two or more part-time jobs for a total of at least 30 hours of work per week on average.

### ***What types of loans qualify?***

Federal Direct Loans qualify for forgiveness under PSLF. Private loans and certain types of older federal student loans do not qualify. Students may consolidate some student loans into Federal Direct Loans, but doing so will re-set the clock for their 10-years of qualifying service.

### ***What types of payments qualify?***

Payments must be made on-time, under an income-based repayment plan such as IBR, ICR, or REPAYE. There is some confusion as to whether

repayments made under a 10-year repayment plan could qualify for PSLF, and right now there is a temporary program to accept payments made under other types of repayment plans. Paying ahead does not count as a qualifying payment under PSLFP. It should also be noted that accepting a “student loan repayment bonus” from your employer is counted as taxable income, thus it may increase the amount of your monthly payments the following year.

More information is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2zDyJMP>

### ***How do I find out if I am eligible to enroll?***

Don't wait 10 years to find out if you are eligible to benefit from this program. Submit an employer verification form to your human resources department now! HR verifies the dates and terms of your employment and sends the completed form to Fed-Loan Servicing, the loan servicer who handles all PSLF cases. If you qualify for PSLF, your loans will be automatically transferred to FedLoan Servicing. The form is available here: <https://bit.ly/2dXnViu>  
***An uncertain future...***

PSLF began in 2007 and the first cohort of borrowers was eligible for loan forgiveness in 2017. Happily, some lucky individuals were successful at having the balance of their loans forgiven. There have been rumors from the beginning of this program's cancellation, but many people believe that if the program is cancelled, those already enrolled will be grandfathered in.

I worked together with Ms. Mariana Barros ([mbarros@nafv.org](mailto:mbarros@nafv.org)) of the national office to put this information together, and urge you to contact her with any questions you have about your specific situations.

## Congressional Status of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Summary by NAFV Associate Executive Vice President

NAFV Members, if you recall last Fall, we sent a call to action to energize our membership to contact your representatives in regarding supporting the PSLF. Well, it seems that your efforts combined with the efforts of the Postal Coalition and other professional and federal employee associations were effective. As part of the approved [2018 omnibus spending bill](#), the PSLF program was not only preserved, but the program was expanded with an additional \$350M appropriated towards a temporary expansion.

This temporary expansion is designed to provide relief to applicants who are otherwise qualified to receive loan forgiveness, but were enrolled in *gradu-*

*ated* or *extended* repayment plans. This temporary expansion is a one-time, first-come-first-served opportunity, meaning that once the funds are used up, there will be no more appeal opportunities. **Members who have been previously denied for PSLF, are strongly urged to visit the temporary loan forgiveness expansion website at the following link:**

<https://bit.ly/2JRJE8j>.

Aside from the temporary expansion, there was another bill introduced in the House of Representatives, [H. R. 4399](#), which would expand the types of monthly payments that would qualify for PSLF. As this develops, we will keep you all informed.

## USDA Extends Deadline for Expressions of Interest for New ERS & NIFA Headquarters

(Washington, D.C., September 7, 2018) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced an extension of the deadline for interested parties to submit an expression of interest to house the headquarters of the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The original deadline of September 14, 2018 has been moved back 30 days to October 15, 2018. The extension is in response to stakeholder requests for more time to prepare and submit proposals for hosting ERS and NIFA. A notice of the extension will appear in the Federal Register in the coming days.

“There has been considerable interest in housing the headquarters of NIFA and ERS, expressed by universities and localities from around the country,” Perdue said. “Some stakeholders have relayed concerns about staff summer vacation schedules interfering with the preparation of proposals, and some have asked for more time to have their plans approved by boards of regents, city councils, or other governing bodies. An extra 30 days will give everyone time to get organized and will not interfere with our timeline.”

In August, Perdue [announced that ERS and NIFA would be moving](#) to outside the National Capital Region by the end of 2019 and invited interested parties to submit proposals. It is possible that ERS and NIFA will be co-located when their new homes are found and a contingent of the agencies will remain in the National Capital Region. As part of the change, ERS will again be aligned with the Office of the Chief Economist under the Office of the Secretary.

### USDA is undertaking the relocations for three main reasons:

1. To improve USDA’s ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in some positions, and it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, D.C. area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.

2. To place these important USDA resources closer to many of stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, D.C. area.

3. To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be re-

tained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

Under the plan, no ERS or NIFA employees will be involuntarily separated. Every employee who wants to continue working will have an opportunity to do so, although that will mean moving to a new location for most. Employees will be offered relocation assistance and will receive the same base pay as before, and the locality pay for the new location. For those who are interested, USDA is seeking approval from the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget for both Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments.

Perdue also noted that 91 percent of USDA’s approximately 108,000 employees currently work outside of the Washington, D.C. region.

“Not very much agriculture goes on in Washington, D.C., so it makes sense that most of our people work in settings outside our capital city,” Perdue said. “From the day I arrived at USDA, I have stressed that we aim to be the most effective, most efficient, most customer-focused department in the entire federal government. In some cases, that means changing the way we do business and interact with our customers and stakeholders.”

Perdue previously announced other significant changes at USDA. In May 2017, [USDA created the first-ever Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs](#) and reconstituted and renamed the new Farm Production and Conservation mission area, among other realignments. In addition, in September 2017, Perdue [realigned a number of offices](#) to improve customer service and maximize efficiency. Those actions involved innovation, consolidation, and the rearrangement of certain offices into more logical organizational reporting structures.

**Original article:** <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/09/07/usda-extends-deadline-expressions-interest-new-ers-nifa>

### **2018 NAFV BOD Election**

**Voting for the  
2018 NAFV Board of Directors Election  
closed on Monday, October 1st.**

**In next month’s issue, we will announce  
the elected winners for incoming BOD.**

## Virulent Newcastle Disease

This past August, USDA's APHIS confirmed the presence of virulent Newcastle disease in a small backyard flock in Los Angeles County, California. According to APHIS, no human cases of Newcastle disease have ever occurred from eating poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat. However, in very rare instances people working directly with sick birds can become infected, though symptoms are usually very mild, and limited to conjunctivitis and/or influenza-like symptoms. Infection can be prevented by using standard personal protective equipment.

### Background on Virulent Newcastle disease:

- Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND), formerly known as Exotic Newcastle Disease is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds and poultry. The disease is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs.
- vND is not a food safety concern. No human cases of Newcastle disease have ever occurred from eating poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat. In very rare instances people working directly with sick birds can become infected with mild symptoms.
- vND has not been found in commercial poultry in the U.S. since 2003.

Since May 18, USDA has confirmed 138 cases of vND in backyard birds in California, 92 in San Bernardino County, 21 in Riverside County, 23 in Los Angeles County and 1 in Ventura County.

To view the full list of recorded cases, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2pse5JH>

Additionally, APHIS has made vND factsheet available at: <https://bit.ly/2O21TOH>

## FEHB Premiums to Rise by 1.5% in 2019

by Ian Smith | 09/26/2018 | FedSmith

The cost of premiums paid by federal employees under the Federal Employee Health Benefits program (FEHB) will increase by an average of 1.5% next year according to the Office of Personnel Management. While this may come as bad news to some, this year's overall average premium increase is actually the smallest since 1996.

The government contributes about 72% of the total cost of health insurance premiums under the program. The average increase for the government's portion of the cost will be 1.2%.

The total average increase in health insurance premiums under the FEHB is 1.3%; this includes both the government's contributions as well as federal employees.

Under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), the overall average premium for dental plans will increase by 1.2%, while the overall average premium for vision plans will decrease by 2.8%.

The 2019 FEHB health insurance premiums are available at [OPM.gov](http://OPM.gov) on the [FEHB premiums page](#) as are the [2019 dental and vision premiums](#).

"These low premium increases testify to OPM's ongoing commitment to ensure the quality and affordability of insurance benefits," said OPM Director Dr. Jeff T.H. Pon. "While this announcement is wel-

come news for Federal employees and retirees, they should continue to carefully review their plan choices to find the plans and enrollment options that best meet their healthcare needs. I urge them to take advantage of the information available to them to choose wisely this Open Season."

Starting this year, all FEHB carriers may offer three plan options of any plan type. Overall, the FEHB Program will offer 265 health plan choices in 2019. The actual number of choices available to any given enrollee will be lower and will vary by geographic location.

Open Season

OPM made the announcement ahead of the upcoming open season which is fast approaching. This is the time when federal employees and retirees have to make their benefits selections for the coming year under FEHB, FEDVIP and Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS).

This year's open season will run from **November 12 to December 10**.

FEHB plan brochures will be available in early November, and FEDVIP brochures will be available in mid-October.

Original Article: <https://www.fedsmith.com/2018/09/26/fehb-premiums-rise-1-5-2019/>



## NAFV recommends FEDS Professional Liability Insurance

NAFV Wants You to Protect Yourself.

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NAFV**

*Do you know personnel actions in federal employment are not covered by AVMA insurance?*

*Do you know that claims resulting in investigations can be made against you by anyone - plant workers, special interest groups, politically motivated elected officials, members of the public, or managers, co-workers or subordinates?*

*Do you know the FEDS policy has paid attorneys for numerous claims with some exceeding costs of \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000 and more than \$100,000 just over the past two years to defend federal veterinarians?*

*Do you know that FEDS Protection also provides an attorney to defend you in a state veterinary board investigation and proceeding arising out of the performance of your federal job duties.*



**Enrollment takes just 5 minutes!**  
**Call 866.955.FEDS or**  
**ENROLL ONLINE NOW**

## Countries reaffirm political will to globally eradicate Peste des petits ruminants

**The aim is to stamp out a virus, which kills millions of sheep and goats each year, and thus protect the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of poor rural families.**

**Brussels, 7 September 2018** – Over 45 countries today renewed their commitment to globally eradicate by 2030, *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), a highly contagious and devastating disease responsible for the death of millions of sheep and goats each year. At the same time, countries urged resource partners and the development community to contribute in bridging the [PPR Global Eradication Programme](#)'s US\$340 million funding gap.

The decision to reaffirm this international political engagement and encourage resource partners to join the fight against the disease came at the global conference: [Partnering and investing for a PPR-free world](#), organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and hosted by the European Commission in Brussels.

In a Ministerial Declaration, participants stressed that PPR “directly threatens the livelihoods of the poorest people of our countries with significant losses in our local economies,” noting that the disease causes more than US\$2.1 billion in economic losses per year.

Addressing the conference, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica said: “Our commitment to tack-

le animal diseases - like PPR - is also a response, to the wider challenges of migration, food security, poverty alleviation, resilience and global trade. And it is essential to our efforts to provide better jobs and prospects for women and young people in particular.”

FAO Director-General Graziano da Silva said: “The financial resources to eradicate PPR are not an expense, but an important investment that will result in future economic and social gains. Small ruminants are the primary resource of about 300 million people. If we do not tackle the spread of PPR, the disease will increase poverty, hunger and also other forms of malnutrition. Eradicating PPR is fundamental for building a safer and more sustainable world.”

OIE Director-General Dr Monique Eloit said: “With your commitment, we are in the process not only of building a world free from PPR, but also to preserve the livelihoods of millions of poor families. The technical means and knowledge are available. Resources and longstanding engagement from countries will be the triggers to make them accessible and to change the lives of the most disadvantaged populations. Reinforcing national Veterinary Services will be a key milestone in the achievement of this common goal.”

The conference stressed that PPR control and eradication starts with commitment and investment at national level. However, support is also needed

(Continued on Pg. 9, “OIE Peste des petits ruminants”)



## Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine

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

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

Instruction commences in early August each year.

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

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



(Continued from Pg. 8, "OIE Peste des petits ruminants")  
from resource partners in building the capacity of national, regional and sub-regional institutions, and bringing about a coordinated, sustained and harmonized approach, necessary for the eradication of the disease.

It noted that controlling and eventually eradicating PPR means fighting rural poverty, ensuring food security and nutrition, and strengthening resilience and national economies and is also in line with the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Nearly 270 participants, among them ministers from over 45 PPR-infected and at-risk countries as well as high-level representatives from resource partners, international, regional, civil-society and non-governmental organizations attended the one-day Brussels conference. It was preceded by a Stakeholders Forum, which provided the opportunity to exchange views and to collect first-hand testimonies on the serious impact of PPR.

The [PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy](#) was initially adopted at a 2015 conference in Abidjan jointly organized by FAO and the OIE.

Through a 2017-2021 [PPR Global Eradication Programme](#), countries formulated National Strategic Plans, which detail the steps for assessing, controlling, and eradicating the PPR virus, maintaining PPR virus freedom, as well as the financial resources required and committed by national authorities to implement these plans.

### Background on PPR

Since its initial identification in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942, the disease has spread to over 70 countries in Africa, the Near and Middle East, and Asia and has reached new areas in recent years. In December 2016 the first reported outbreak in sheep and goats with spill-over of the disease to a wild antelope species was observed in Mongolia, and later in June 2018, it reached the European Union, with a first-ever case reported in Bulgaria.

While the disease is highly lethal to small ruminants - killing up to 90 percent of infected animals - it is easily preventable with inexpensive vaccines that can be administered at low cost.

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

### NAFV Call for Emerging Leader to Attend AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference

NAFV sponsors an emerging leader to the AVMA Leadership Conference each year in Chicago.  
The next Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 10-13, 2019.

NAFV members are invited to nominate other NAFV members or themselves as a candidate to attend the VLC. Nominees must be an AVMA member who is 5-15 years post-graduation, or a recent graduate 0-5 years post-graduation who does not necessarily have to be an AVMA member. **Interested candidates should submit a short bio and personal statement listing why they are interested in attending the conference and how they expect to use their acquired leadership skills by 10/15/2018.**

With questions or submission, please contact: [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org) | 202 - 223 - 4878.

**NAFV AT WORK!**

**Members, please see a copy of the letter below which has been distributed to the House Appropriations Committee members on behalf of the proposed 1.9% federal employee pay raise in [H.R. 6147](#).**



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL VETERINARIANS**

1910 Sunderland Place NW | Washington, DC | 20036-1608  
Phone: 202.223.4878 | fax: 202.842.4360  
www.nafv.org | nafv@nafv.org

September 2018

Chairman and Committee Members  
Committee of Appropriations  
The U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Conferee:

I write on behalf of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) to respectfully request that you support the inclusion of the cost of living pay raise for federal employees, as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2019 final conference agreement for H.R. 6147.

NAFV appreciates the Senate's inclusion of a 1.9 percent proposed increase to base pay and hopes to see this provision remain in the final agreement. These cost of living increases are needed for the government to maintain the competitiveness required to recruit and retain a well-qualified and high-performing workforce, particularly the veterinary workforce. Veterinarians play pivotal roles across the government, addressing issues impacting national security, agriculture, human health, and more. They are involved in daily activities to ensure food safety, safeguard animal and human health from diseases and toxins, conduct biomedical research, and facilitate trade. Simply put: veterinarians have a long and distinguished history of contributions Federal service and are employed in 14 of the 26 Federal Agencies.

As you know, the public sector is a competitive disadvantage when it comes to pay and recruitment, despite the rewards of public service careers. Veterinarians, in particular, due to their specialized education and training requirements, must manage significant educational debt and thus pay is a significant factor in making career decisions.

With a strong economy and increasingly competitive labor markets, now is the time to support the federal workforce with this much-needed adjustment. Further, after pay was frozen for a recent three-year period (2011-2013), the 1.9 percent adjustment is an important step to signal support for the workforce and to continue to encourage the next generation of veterinarians to pursue Federal service.

Unfortunately, without Congressional action, Federal veterinarians are facing another pay freeze next year. For these reasons, NAFV encourages you to support including the 1.9 percent pay raise that is in the Senate passed version of H.R. 6147 in the conference agreement on the bill.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue in more depth, please contact NAFV Executive Vice President NAFV@NAFV.org or 202-223-4878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin Meinders".

Marvin Meinders, DVM, MPVM  
Executive Vice President  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians

## Investing in biosecurity: a key step to curb the spread of animal diseases

**Source: OIE | 09/20/2018**

Paris, 20 September 2018 - Animal diseases are among the most significant limiting factors for livestock production. Their impact can vary from reduced productivity and restricted market access to the elimination of entire flocks or herds, and therefore trigger heavy economic consequences. In some cases, they can also threaten human health.

The appropriate implementation of biosecurity principles can prevent the transmission of pathogens to animals, humans and the environment as detailed in the OIE Standards and guidelines. Measures, such as good farming practices and control of animals and products movements for instance, are crucial to prevent and contain outbreaks.

At the occasion of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 17 to 21 September 2018, the results of a survey<sup>1</sup> on the application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels were presented. The findings show that the vast majority of responding countries have appropriate national legislations (94.87%) and enforced action plans (92.31%) with regard to biosecurity. However, only half of the respondents indicated that their country had national funds to support the implementation of biosecurity measures or good farming practices (53.85%).

Furthermore, although implementation of biosecurity plans occurs most frequently in commercial poultry and pig production systems in Europe, the survey highlighted the need to enhance biosecurity in backyard and non-commercial farms, which can play a role in the spread of diseases.

Considering current animal health challenges, all countries need to be vigilant. This was illustrated by the recent cases of African swine fever reported in several European countries. Cases have also recently been reported in China with devastating consequences (refer to [WAHIS](#) for the latest information). The scenario is challenging and in the absence of an effective vaccine, implementing OIE-recommended biosecurity measures in farms and at all country entry points is essential, in addition to other measures such as disease surveillance and early detection. Implementing biosecurity requirements does not only involve veterinarians but also numerous stakeholders such as hunters, farmers and transporters.

Avian Influenza is another concern that should be considered as the winter season approaches, which is usually associated with an increased risk. Wild birds play a role as reservoirs and vectors of the virus, but other factors of transmission could be important unless appropriate biosecurity measures are set in place. As an example of best practices, management of incoming and outgoing flows, procedures for cleaning and disinfection, protection measures against wild fauna and traceability requirements were described in the survey.

The capacity of countries to implement biosecurity measures in their territory is crucial. Investing in appropriate training and awareness raising of all stakeholders involved is a key responsibility of national authorities to change behaviours and improve the effectiveness of disease control programmes.

**Original Article:** <https://bit.ly/2xY9Byn>

**NAFV Members, we have  
NAFV Centennial celebratory lapel-pins  
available for purchase for \$10.00.**

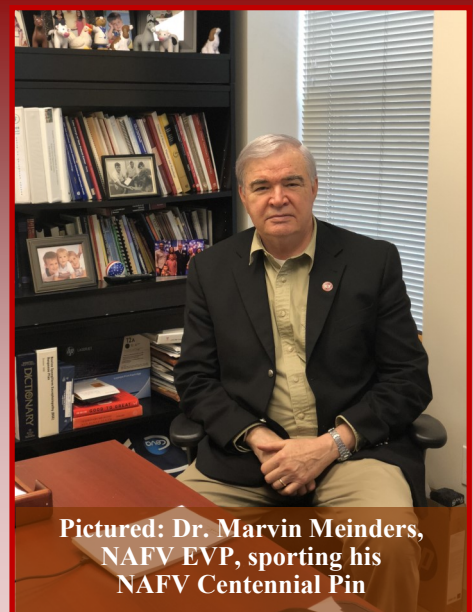


**Our NAFV Centennial lapel pins  
commemorate our organization's 100  
years of service representing and  
advocating for federally employed  
veterinarians.**

These limited edition pins can be purchased by contacting the NAFV national office at:  
[nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org) | 202-223-4878

Or online through PayPal at the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/2O07oxb>

No PayPal account needed - you can choose to checkout as a guest.



**Pictured: Dr. Marvin Meinders,  
NAFV EVP, sporting his  
NAFV Centennial Pin**



# 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 APHIS Members

- Dr. John Harmer**, GS-12, Retirement, Rochester, NY, 06/30/2018
- Dr. David Kinker**, GS-14, Retirement, Ames, IA, 06/30/2018
- Dr. Delorias Lenard**, GS-14, Retirement, Columbia, SC, 06/30/2018
- Dr. Jeffrey Baker**, GS-13, Retirement, West Fork, AR, 07/07/2018
- Dr. Stephen Hall**, GS-14, Retirement, Riverdale, MD, 07/18/2018
- Dr. Nancy Clough**, GS-14, Retirement, Ames, IA, 07/31/2018
- Dr. Gregory Gaj**, GS-13, Retirement, Seminole, FL, 07/31/2018

### USDA FSIS Members

(Information available next month)

## Welcome New Members

- Dr. Tyrell Kahan**, USAID, UF '11, Arlington, VA
- Dr. Katelyn Miller**, FSIS, GS-12, MO '14, Utica, NY (Recommended by Dr. Deanna Brown)
- Dr. Jessica Poindexter**, FSIS, GS-12, WSU '16, Santaquin, UT

Periodicals postage paid  
 at Washington, DC

## NAFV Agency Coordinators

### FSIS Coordinators

Name	State	Email	Phone Number	District
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