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Dr. Sam Holland Presented NIAA's Meritorious Service Award

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO— Dr. Sam Holland, former state veterinarian for the South Dakota Animal Industry Board, was presented the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's highly regarded Meritorious Service Award at the organization's annual meeting on Tuesday, March 31, in Louisville, Ky. NIAA's 2008 Meritorious Service Award is given in recognition of leadership, dedication and contributions to the organization and animal agriculture.

"Before retiring from the South Dakota Animal Industry Board on March 6 of this year, Dr. Holland spent 22 years bringing practical common-sense approaches to complex problems and earned high regard for his honesty and breadth of knowledge regarding issues facing animal agriculture," stated 2008 NIAA Chairman Dr. Leonard Bull who presented the award.

"His accomplishments include assisting in the development of the PRV control program of swine and the eradication of that disease and the final cleanup of brucellosis in South Dakota—including cleaning up the nation's largest buffalo herd with brucellosis. He was also responsible for identifying chronic wasting disease in captive elk and developing a program that became the national model. Plus he developed a program for trichomoniasis and implemented the nation's first veterinary medical reserve crops for responding to emergency animal health events. "

Dr. Holland has been active within NIAA for several years and has taken a special interest in the Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee.

NIAA's membership includes national and state livestock, poultry and equine organizations as well as veterinarians, government regulatory personnel, academia, researchers, extension specialists, producers and allied industry businesses and organizations. The organization's goal is to ensure the sustainability of animal agriculture to the benefit of all society.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture provides a forum for building consensus and advancing proactive solutions for animal agriculture—the beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goats, equine and poultry industries—and provides continuing education and communication linkages for animal agriculture professionals. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of disease that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome from supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. NIAA members represent all facets of animal agriculture.

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