

Cattle — HEALTH REPORT

A National Institute for Animal Agriculture Publication

Fall/Winter 2006

Brucellosis - On the Road to Eradication

The Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program continued to make progress in FY2006 toward its goal of eliminating brucellosis according to Debbi A. Donch, DVM, National Brucellosis Epidemiologist. The national prevalence rate has dropped from .005% in FY2004 to .002% during the past year, and the only remaining "Class A" states, Texas and Idaho, are making good progress toward becoming "Free."

While it is a long-term process, most states have successfully eliminated the disease and have kept it from returning. It is worth noting that the two "Class A" states combined do have 16.56% of the cattle and 16.23% of the cattle herds in

the country, while the 20 states that have been "Free" for 20 or more years only have in total 15.25% of the cattle and 18.72% of the cattle herds in the country.

On the international front, the northern part of Sonora, Mexico is seeking recognition as equivalent to "Class A" status.

Approximately 8 million market cattle in the U.S. have been blood tested each of the past two years. The milk surveillance test continues to be used, but no infected herds have been identified with this surveillance method since 1995. During the past year a total of nearly 4.5 million cattle and calves were vaccinated for brucellosis.

As we near eradication of the disease, surveillance becomes critical according to Dr. Donch. A long-term plan to guide future surveillance efforts is being formulated. It will include wildlife surveillance and mitigation plans where needed. A work group has also been established to assess the current brucellosis laboratory system and study ways it might be restructured to provide greater efficiency.

As noted previously, wildlife issues must be addressed for the long-term success of the eradication effort. For this reason, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks continue to be areas of interest. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) have completed a memorandum of understanding to

address the issues, but it is awaiting final clearance from DOI. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is currently conducting a bison quarantine feasibility study with Montana and development of a "super RB51" vaccine with ARS and Colorado State University (CSU). They are also in the analysis stage of a transmission study in bison and elk with CSU. Test and treat strategies are being evaluated as is serologic differentiation of *Brucella* infection from *Yersinia enterocolitica* 0:9 infection in elk.

Taken together, the ongoing efforts will lead to the ultimate goal of the program: the eradication of brucellosis. ●

Inside This Issue...

PAGE 2-3
Progress, but Challenges Remain for TB Eradication

PAGE 4
Voluntary Johne's Program Shows Growth

PAGES 5
USDA Holds Firm to Voluntary NAIS, Other Policies

PAGE 6
Surveillance, Wildlife Diseases High on Agenda at Animal Health Meetings

PAGE 7
News Briefs

Progress to Free State Status

Wyoming: Last affected herd disclosed and depopulated in 2005. Regained class free state status on September 12, 2006!

Idaho: Two brucellosis affected cattle herds were disclosed in November 2005; both were depopulated with indemnity; the last reactor was removed December 8, 2005. Pre-class free review conducted September 10 - 14, 2006.

Texas: Last affected herd was disclosed August 2005; placed under hold order and tested out; released from hold order in September 2006.

TB Program Update

Progress, but Challenges Remain for TB Eradication

Fifteen states including the U.S. Virgin Islands have achieved and maintained a Tuberculosis (TB) free status for 25 or more years according to Michael Dutcher, DVM, Senior Staff Veterinarian, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tuberculosis Eradication Program. Another 21 states have been TB free for 15 or more years, with eight states at this level for 10 or more years. Three states including Puerto Rico have been free for five or more years.

In spite of this positive news, TB in cattle herds remains a challenge as USDA, states and industry work to eradicate the disease. Nine affected herds were discovered during FY 2006. This was up from four in the previous year. All of the affected

herds were located in areas where affected herds have been identified during the past two years, so the range of the disease has not expanded. While the level of slaughter surveillance has exceeded national goals, all of the newly discovered herds were detected through herd level surveillance and epidemiologic investigation. Dr. Dutcher states that this shows that while slaughter surveillance is critical to the overall eradication program, TB response plans remain critical in areas where the disease has been detected.

At the end of FY 2005 a total of 47 states and territories including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands were TB free. Two states (New Mexico and Michigan) were regionalized, and Texas was classified as Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA). In January 2006, as a result of the discovery of three affected herds, Minnesota was downgraded to MAA. During the year Texas regained its "Free" status, so the overall numbers remain the same, but the states involved have changed.

Two of the nine affected herds found in FY 2006 were beef herds in Minnesota that were discovered during the epidemiologic investigations of three previously identified herds. Epidemiology for the index herd has been completed, but the testing of trace herds around the country is ongoing. The source of the infection has not been identified. In addition to the beef herds, two infected, hunter harvested white-tail deer were discovered. As a result of these findings the state of Minnesota and USDA have jointly developed a surveillance plan for livestock and wildlife statewide. The goal is to determine the extent of infection in

livestock and determine whether or not the disease has become established in wildlife. All affected herds in Minnesota have been depopulated with federal indemnity.

The other seven herds detected during the past year were all in Michigan; five were beef and the remaining others dairy. Five of the herds were in the heart of Michigan's endemic zone while the other two were outliers located in the western end of the zone. One of the beef herds was determined to be a reinfection. All seven of the herds have been depopulated with federal indemnity.

There were no TB affected captive or farmed cervid herds found in the past two years. A single infected herd has been discovered at the heart of Michigan's endemic area early in FY 2007. Even so, this is encouraging according to Dr. Dutcher, considering that 41 affected herds have been disclosed since 1991. Of the 41 affected herds, 30 were depopulated and 11 were tested out and qualified for release. One of the 11 developed a recrudescence infection and was depopulated.

International Activities

USDA continues to work with Mexico to ensure that there is equivalency between the countries' requirements. To accomplish this, reviews of many Mexican state TB programs have been conducted under the umbrella of the U.S. and Mexico Bi-national Committee. They are in a phased transition, so that Mexican states can reach equivalence with the U.S. program. The current milestone is to achieve 0.1% prevalence and qualify as equivalent to the U.S. modified accredited status. During the past fiscal year, 17



Cattle Health Report

Fall/Winter 2006

Cattle Health Report provides the latest information on issues pertinent to cattle health initiatives, strategies, research and regulatory action. It is a communications initiative of the NIAA Cattle Health Committee and is produced in cooperation with USDA-APHIS. Reprinting is encouraged.

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1910 Lyda Avenue

Bowling Green, KY 42104-5809

ph: 270-782-9798 fax: 270-782-0188

e-mail: NIAA@animalagriculture.org

Web site: www.animalagriculture.org

review trips were completed. Review teams examine the TB program integrity, progress, and level of prevalence. A total of 27 federal, state, industry, and contracted individuals were involved in these reviews. In addition to the Mexican site reviews, USDA conducted national program reviews in Australia, Canada, and Mexico during 2006. The Office of the Inspector General also completed an internal audit during the year. Responses will be made to findings and recommendations in the reviews.

Policy and rule making

Due to continuing concern that the level of surveillance in captive cervids may be inadequate, a working group of state and federal personnel developed a proposed surveillance plan in 2004 that was conditionally approved by industry leadership. The plan outlines necessary procedures for achieving and advancing through different TB status levels. This was put into a draft Uniform Methods and Rules

(UM&R) for Captive Cervids that was presented at the 2005 USAHA meeting. Finalization of the UM&R has been delayed while USDA drafts comprehensive revisions to both the bovine and cervid portion of the TB rules in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR). In anticipation of changes that will result from the Cervid UM&R, USDA revised its herd accreditation regulations for cervids to allow herd accreditation after two negative annual whole herd tests. They also allow for recertification tests every three years.

Several other policy changes are being addressed:

- A revision of import requirements for Mexican roping cattle has been drafted and is currently undergoing final revisions and economic analysis.
- The period following a whole herd test in which cattle or bison may be moved interstate from a modified accredited state or zone or from an accredited preparatory state or zone without an individual tuberculin test has been reduced from six

months to 60 days.

- Steps are being taken to allow provisional tests to be run alongside traditional tests to collect data needed for test validation.
- Other recommendations from the USAHA TB committee are being considered.

The complexity of the revisions and links between the bovine, cervid, and international rules are resulting in an extended time being needed to complete all changes.

The cooperative State-Federal-Industry effort to eradicate bovine TB from the United States has made significant progress toward eradication, markedly decreasing the prevalence of the disease. The primary challenges to eradication at the present time are infected wildlife and infected cattle from Mexico. A new Strategic Plan for Eradication was finalized during the year. Though full funding has not been provided, it provides the direction and focus for the program in the future.

See *Hot Topics* | page 4

State Updates

Arizona: Large dairy detected in 2005 was depopulated and owner sold the property. Following a fallow period, a new dairy moved in. A clean herd test was required prior to the move and an additional test will be required in two years.

Michigan: Seven new affected herds were found during the year. An infected cervid herd has been detected in October 2006 in the endemic area. The state is divided into three zones. Eleven hundred herds are tested in the Modified Accredited (MA) zone annually. Eight hundred randomly selected cattle herds are tested each year in the MAA and Free zones. The

prevalence in wild deer in the core of the MA zone was 1.2%.

Minnesota: Two positive beef herds were detected in FY2006. Two additional herds have been detected in October 2006. All herds are located in two counties in the northern part of the state. The MN Department of Natural Resources and the MN Board of Animal Health have worked with USDA to develop a surveillance plan in both livestock and wildlife that includes risk based state-wide testing to determine the extent of TB in the state and also to clarify if it is established in wildlife.

New Mexico: During 2006 nine dairies and 28 beef or roping facilities in the MAA zone were tested.

Approximately 22,000 tests were conducted with 39 reactors going to slaughter. One dairy is under quarantine as the owner has opted to continue under a test-and-removal program rather than depopulation. The herd was tested twice with over 3,600 head tested. A total of 26 reactors were sent to slaughter. To date no additional TB has been detected anywhere in the state.

Texas: The last affected herd was depopulated in September 2004. Since that time, 818 dairy and 2,014 beef seedstock herds have been tested with no additional TB detected. Based on a TB program review and the State's other qualifications, Texas regained TB Free status in September.

Voluntary Johne's Program Shows Growth

The *Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program*, (the **Program**), developed jointly by animal health officials, scientists, and producer representatives, is making progress in its goal of helping dairy and beef producers address Johne's disease in a proactive manner according to Dr. Michael Carter, USDA APHIS, National Johne's Coordinator.

Herds that do not have Johne's are encouraged to use biosecurity practices that will minimize the

Hot Topics cont'd from page 3

CFR Changes to be Proposed

At the USAHA Meeting Michael Dutcher, DVM, Senior Staff Veterinarian, USDA Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Program, announced that several changes are expected to be made in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) relative to TB. While no draft has been developed at the present time, discussion has included several potential changes from the 2005 Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R). Likely changes are outlined in the PowerPoint (CFR Update and Major Changes v4) that may be accessed on the NIAA website www.animalagriculture.org.

Comments or suggestions relative to the potential changes may be submitted to USDA once the rule is proposed. Prior to publication of a proposed rule USDA personnel can discuss potential areas of concern with the public. Once published, they are unable to discuss the proposal. Current expectation is that a proposed rule will be published by March 2007.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at that time, but USDA will not be able to respond to them until the final rule is published.

Annual Program Progress	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
States with					
- Advisory Committees	41	42	44	47	48
- In compliance w/program	22	34	36	43	48
Total herds in Program	3,254	4,722	6,189	7,876	8,652*
Total Status Herds	631	543	993	1,472	1,778*
ELISA tests (Individual animals)	614,210	549,810	673,299	697,264	707,090*
Cultures (Individual animals)	100,403	97,057	101,786	105,685	123,524*
Pooled Samples (Groups of animals)					4,077*
Environmental Samples					4,793*

*Reported as of September 29, 2006

chance of introducing the disease into their herd. By participating in the testing portion of the program, they can also benefit from the increasing demand for seedstock and replacement animals from herds that do not have the disease.

Herds with positive animals can use the program to reduce the economic impact of the disease in their herd while working to reduce the incidence in their herd and move toward a "low risk" status.

While the **Program** is national with basic standards for all, it is administered through the states. States, working with producers and other professionals on their state Johne's Advisory Committees or state working groups may set state standards that are higher than the national standards. Check www.johnesdisease.org for information for specific states. All programs have three basic elements that also relate to program participation level:

1. Education – Provide information to prevent, control, and eliminate the disease.
2. Management – Implement management strategies to prevent, control, and eliminate the disease.
3. Herd testing and Classification – Identify test-positive from test-negative herds.

Goals for the coming year include having all states in compliance with the program standards and reaching

the following participation levels:

Test Negative herds
 Dairy – 2,640 Beef – 1,332
 Total Program herds
 Dairy – 9,680 Beef – 1,900

One of the challenges to achieving these goals for the coming year is likely to be the budget. In FY2005 the federal budget for the program was \$18.56 million. This was reduced to \$13.06 in FY2006. Current budget figures appear likely to be substantially lower than this as the Senate appropriations bill included the largest amount at \$10 million, with the House version at \$7.6 million. This will impact states and their ability to work with the program. In FY2006, \$6.4 million of the \$13.06 went to states to enhance their programs, increase needed laboratory and data infrastructure, create incentive programs for producers, and fund herds in a multi-year national demonstration herd project.

A tool recently added to those used in the program is the Johne's Education Initiative. This effort is coordinated by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) with funding from a cooperative agreement with USDA, APHIS and from industry sources. It's designed to provide producers and those who work with them easy access to the latest science based information about the disease and the program. Check www.johnesdisease.org for details. ●

USDA Holds Firm to Voluntary NAIS, Other Policies

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns has some clear ideas about how the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) should work. During his address at the ID INFO EXPO 2006 in August, Johanns shared these thoughts, outlining what he believes is the best approach for the program: 1) NAIS is a voluntary system driven by the States and the private sector; 2) NAIS is a State-Federal-Industry partnership that allows for competitive forces in the free market to keep costs down; and 3) The Federal government does not control animal identification or movement records.

These same messages were reiterated by other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials throughout ID INFO EXPO and again at the U.S. Animal Health Association's annual meeting in Minneapolis in mid-October. They were also key points in USDA's launch of the NAIS Community Outreach Program two weeks later at a workshop in Kansas City for State/Federal Animal ID coordinators and industry representatives.

Johanns and staff emphasized that the goals of NAIS can be achieved with a voluntary system, but still acknowledged the challenges a voluntary program can bring. They stressed the importance of educating producers about the value of NAIS and motivating them to participate in the program. A key part of this effort, they said, is listening to producer concerns and taking action to address them. USDA's decision to house animal movement records in private and State databases was in keeping with this approach.

USDA officials pledged to continue collaborating on NAIS with the States, industry, and producers to create a versatile, quality system. Through the new outreach campaign, USDA is working together with its State and industry partners to seek feedback on the program and ensure that NAIS makes sense for everyone.

As part of these efforts, USDA has recently published a draft NAIS User Guide at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/userguide.shtml>. The Guide provides helpful information about what

NAIS is and how it can help protect producers' animals and their investment. The Guide is intended as a resource to help producers make informed decisions about participation in NAIS. USDA is also accepting comments on the Guide through January 22, 2007, to gain producers' insights on the program.

There are three components of NAIS: premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracing. The first priority of NAIS has been implementing premises registration – the foundation of the program. USDA and the States are close to their goal of registering 25 percent of premises in the United States (estimated to be at least 1.4 million) by January 31, 2007. The number of premises registered across the country stands today at more than 333,000, or 24 percent, and continues to rise each week.

The second component of NAIS, identifying animals individually or by group/lot with a unique identification number, is progressing. Animal identification is available now for several species. The States and industry continue working on this component so that it will eventually be an option for all species. In support of this work, USDA has approved two companies to manufacture animal identification number (AIN) devices, and a third has submitted devices for approval. USDA is also in the process of approving AIN managers who will be authorized to distribute devices. Another recent change is USDA's plan for the distribution records of AIN devices to be submitted to private or State-operated AIN Device Distribution Databases, rather than to USDA's AIN Management System. Animal health officials will request access to the AIN device distribution records only when there is an animal disease issue that warrants their use. This change is slated for implementation in April 2007.

The final component of NAIS, animal tracing, is under development by the States and private sector. Once this component is complete, producers will be able to choose an animal tracking database (ATD)—operated and maintained by pri-

vate industry groups or States—and report certain animal movements. In the case of an animal health emergency, these databases will be accessible by animal health officials through a "communications system" called the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS). ATDs are currently being approved on an interim basis and agreements signed relative to their operation.

Johanns and staff remained firm on their position that the Federal government should maintain only limited NAIS information, and that the AIN Device Distribution Databases and ATDs should be operated privately and/or by State governments to ensure the protection of information. As NAIS moves forward, USDA is demonstrating a strong commitment to producers by ensuring that the program continues to evolve to meet their needs.

The Species Working Groups reported on their current recommendations at ID INFO EXPO. They are similar to reports made to the National Animal Identification System Subcommittee of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Disease. The following are major points reported by the Cattle and Bison Working Groups for direction and implementation of NAIS:

Bison WG

No new recommendations were presented. The group is continuing to work and will be making modifications in the near future. In general the Bison WG recommendations are similar to those for cattle.

Cattle WG

- The U.S. Animal Identification Plan was endorsed as the uniform plan to be implemented through the NAIS.
- Ultimate oversight authority and responsibility for the program lies with state, tribal, and federal animal health officials.
- Use brand inspection programs to the extent possible within the NAIS
- RFID ear tags are endorsed by the

Over-Arching Themes Surveillance, Wildlife Diseases High on Agenda at Animal Health Meetings

The U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) recently held their annual joint meeting in Minneapolis (October 12-18). USAHA is mainly an organization for state and federal government animal health officials (both scientists and administrators) with representation from various trade associations and professional societies. AAVLD is just what the name implies - an organization comprised of diagnosticians. The joint USAHA/AAVLD meeting often serves as an important venue for discussion regarding emerging issues surrounding animal disease and as a forum to begin resolving various issues of concern.

Two prevailing topics dominated this year's meeting: 1) Disease "surveillance" based on predictive models measuring prevalence and subsequent threat of these diseases to the total domestic herd/flock and to humans; 2) Zoonotic diseases in wildlife that affect domestic animals and possibly even humans. AAVLD committee meetings often surround diagnostic issues and techniques; meanwhile, USAHA committees primarily deal with disease control policy.

Here are some of the highlights of the presentations and discussions:

Surveillance:

Surveillance has been an essential part of every effort to eradicate a given animal disease. But, surveillance in the 21st century is a far cry from not only your grandpa's surveillance of 50 years ago but also your dad's of just 15 years ago. And this is just the beginning. Surveillance techniques are likely to grow and expand even more in the next 20 years according to some of the speakers at the USAHA/AAVLD meeting.

This rapid change has been driven by two factors: the threat of foreign animal diseases and the expansion of information technology capabilities that make it possible to collect, transmit and ana-

lyze an amazing amount of data.

Recognizing the ever-increasing disease threats and opportunities to expand export markets, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Service (APHIS, VS), working with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), began a review of the U.S. animal disease surveillance system. In addition to the 9/11 events, the occurrence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and the global risk of foreign animal and emerging diseases spurred those efforts into high gear, and as a result, the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS) was created in 2003. The NAHSS is a network of alliances and partnerships among government agencies and private entities designed to facilitate information exchange, enhance current surveillance programs, and establish and maintain the necessary infrastructure for surveillance.

"The NAHSS is a USDA, APHIS, VS initiative to integrate existing animal health monitoring programs and surveillance activities into a comprehensive and coordinated system, as well as to develop new surveillance methods and approaches," according to Dr. Brian McCluskey, USDA Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), who spoke at the Scientific Session of the joint meeting. Dr. McCluskey leads the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), the coordinating entity for animal health surveillance activities.

The goal of the NAHSS, says McCluskey, is to systematically collect, collate, and analyze animal health data and promptly disseminate animal health information, especially to those partners obligated to respond: other federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (for humans) and others such as State Veterinarians and USDA scientists in the field.

Surveillance, McCluskey says, depends upon many interrelated activities including sampling at slaughter and marketing facilities and reports by veterinarians and other animal health professionals in the field. "That's where the readers of the Health Reports come in. We need their first-hand knowledge of what's going on out there on the farms, ranches, and production facilities to make surveillance work. They've been great partners in the past and we hope that will continue," he says.

Dr. McCluskey noted a number of "successes" that have been achieved by the NAHSS including the incorporation of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), which was created through the cooperation of the AAVLD, APHIS, and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. This network combines federal laboratory capacity with the facilities, professional expertise, and support of state and university animal health laboratories,

See *Surveillance, Wildlife* | page 8

USDA Releases 2005 U.S. Animal Health Report

The USDA released in October the 2005 U.S. Animal Health Report, a national overview.

The report addresses the many components of the U.S. animal health infrastructure, animal population demographics, approaches to foreign animal disease surveillance, and new

initiatives.

The 2005 U.S. Animal Health Report is available on the APHIS website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/2005_us_animal_health_report.pdf.

News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs

Benjamin Richey Named Exec. Dir. of USAHA

Benjamin Richey has been named Executive Director of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). He took the helm as chief administrator of the organization on Nov. 1. As Executive Director, Richey will be responsible for relocating the central office to the Kansas City area, expanding membership, and coordinating the work and reports of some 33 committees.

Richey is a graduate of Purdue University.

Previously, he has served as Director of Communications for the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA).

Drs. Reed and McElwain Receive APHIS Animal Health Award

Dr. Willie Reed and Dr. Terry McElwain were presented with the APHIS Animal Health Award by Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), during the opening joint general session of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD).

In presenting the awards, DeHaven noted that both recipients have served as president of AAVLD, Reed in 2003 and McElwain in 2004. "Both of these men are passionate about veterinary diagnostics," DeHaven said, "and each will take every opportunity to share their vision with anyone who will listen."

Reed recently accepted the position of Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. Prior to that he was Director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Michigan State University as well as

Chair of the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation there.

McElwain is Executive Director of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and holds an academic appointment as full Professor of Pathology in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at Washington State University.

"The dedication, pride and integrity that Dr. Reed and Dr. McElwain demonstrate every day reflect positively on the activities they direct and on their states, AAVLD, USAHA and animal agriculture in this country," DeHaven said.

'Medal of Distinction' Awarded to Dr. Campbell and Dr. McCapes

Dr. Clarence Campbell and Dr. Dick McCapes were the first recipients of the new U.S. Animal Health Association's "Medal of Distinction," the highest award presented to an Association member.

"These two individuals are highly deserving of this award," said Dr. Bret Marsh, USAHA president, as he presented the medals. Marsh said the new medal, which was established in May will be awarded annually to recognize one or more USAHA members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, provided exemplary service, and have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Association.

Campbell retired as Florida State Veterinarian in 1991 after 38 years of service. McCapes retired from the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, in 1994.

Both individuals served as president of USAHA — Campbell in 1966 and McCapes in 1999.

National Assembly Award Goes to Dr. Holland

Dr. Sam Holland, South Dakota State Veterinarian, was honored the National Assembly's Award by state regulatory officials during the opening joint general session of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) at their joint meeting in Minneapolis in October. ●

USDA Holds Firm

(cont'd from page 5)

- WG as the technology to individually ID cattle
- Basic events that trigger individual animal ID
 - Change of ownership
 - Interstate movement of animals
 - Commingling of animals
- Basic events that trigger access to the NAIS databases
 - Confirmation of OIE "List A" disease
 - Declaration of animal disease emergency by the Secretary of Agriculture
 - Program disease traceback
- Cattle exported must have an official NAIS RFID tag to leave the country
- Cattle imported must have official ID from the country of origin, a USDA, APHIS approved International Certificate of Identification, and be reported to the NAIS database
- Expand the current KSU Animal Identification Knowledge Lab work on ID devices

More detail on individual species WG reports can be found at <http://www.animalagriculture.org/proceedings/2006IDProceedings.asp> in the "Pre-conference Seminar" area. ●

Surveillance, Wildlife (cont'd from page 6)

enhancing the detection and response for animal health emergencies, including foreign animal diseases.

In addition, guidelines and standards for the construction and operation of surveillance systems have been created, as well as surveillance plans for BSE, classical swine fever, and new targeted methods for pseudorabies and brucellosis. For more information go to the NSU website: <http://nsu.aphis.usda.gov/>. For more information on how NSU/NAHSS fits with the work at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the broader scope Bio-surveillance at the Department of Homeland Security see other presentations made at the meeting at www.usaha.org.

Wildlife:

The fact that wildlife and domestic livestock and fowl can and do spread diseases to each other has resulted in government and industry eradication programs for such diseases as tuberculosis (TB) in cattle and pseudorabies in swine. Some of these diseases, such as TB, posed

a human threat as well and fueled the need for eradication programs. But with the emergence of BSE/Mad Cow disease some years ago, and now with the extensive news coverage of a possible avian influenza (AI) H5N1 pandemic, even the general public is keenly aware of the overall problem of diseases spreading not only from wildlife to domestic animals but also to other species including humans. While these two high profile diseases grab most of the attention, a number of others issues, such as TB being transmitted from deer and bison to domestic cattle in Michigan and Wyoming and pseudorabies in wild boars threatening to re-infect the nation's swine herd, must be dealt with by animal health officials and the industry.

Another example, with a reverse twist, is the following: some wildlife officials theorize that Bighorn sheep in the Rocky Mountains are being infected with various diseases by way of domestic sheep grazing on public land. Therefore, there is a movement to ban domestic sheep from federally-owned public grazing land which would make sheep production impossible in many western states.

Numerous presentations, papers, and committee agenda items focused on

these and other diseases, but of course, avian flu got by far the most attention at the USAHA-AAVLD meeting. For example, Robert Cook, of the Wildlife Conservation Society, described his organization's Global Avian Influenza Network (GAIN) for surveillance of wild birds. The goal of GAIN is not to duplicate efforts of countries such as the U.S. but to work in less developed nations where the governments have neither the resources nor the expertise to monitor the spread of the disease.

In addition, two half-day sessions, one on various diagnostic tests for AI and the other covering more general information on its spread and control methods, were held. More than a dozen scholarly presentations were given while committees spent hours discussing what needs to be done and making several resolutions regarding AI.

And, these are just today's high profile diseases. Literally hundreds of papers and studies on everything from foot and mouth disease in pronghorn and mule deer to canine distemper to diseases of skunks and squirrels were presented and made available to attendees.

In addition to the USAHA website listed before, much more information on assorted aspects of wildlife diseases is also available at www.aavld.org. ●

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Mark Your Calendars for April 2-5, 2007! SACRAMENTO TO HOST 2007 NIAA ANNUAL MEETING

BioFuels Energy: Animal Agriculture at the Crossroads—That's the theme of the 2007 National Institute for Animal Agriculture's annual meeting which will be held April 2-5 at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento.

"BioFuels are taking off," says Annual Meeting Chair Jim Fraley. "Is that generally good for animal agriculture, or frankly, will it drive up our feed costs? Can we pass those costs on to consumers? These are questions everyone in animal agriculture is asking him/herself, and we'll try to

answer them in Sacramento this spring," he says.

As usual the planning committee has scheduled an extra, one-day symposium on the 5th (Thursday) with a special "hot topic" emphasis. This one is expected to be based on the recent outbreak of E. coli. The program will feature local accounts and experts. "And, what better place to do it, but in the capital of the state where the problem originated. It should be both fascinating and informative," Fraley adds.