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Contact: Katie Ambrose Ph: 719-538-8843 Ext 14 Katie\_ambrose@animalagriculture.org

## Equine Forum 2017 to Advance Identification, Traceability and Health Records

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Traceability in the equine industry has been a highly-discussed topic for several years, with varying progress across the country to move forward with a national infrastructure. In an effort to coalesce and move forward, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) and the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) are again partnering to host **Equine Forum, 2017: Advancing ID, Traceability and Electronic Health Records**. The event will be January 17-18, 2017 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

"Discussion from the 2016 Equine Disease Forum really highlighted the need for a focused discussion on equine identification and traceability in this country," says Dr. Katie Flynn, California Department of Food and Agriculture, who chairs the Equine Forum planning committee. "We wanted to take advantage of the 2016 Forum momentum, and build on current industry discussion on the topic of equine identification."

The goals of the Forum are to establish consensus on the parameters of a national equine identification program, to provide recommendations for advancing equine identification technologies and electronic data capture methodologies, and to potentially form an industry stakeholder group to develop a national equine identification and traceability plan. Advancing equine identification and traceability is essential for protecting the future health of the equine industry.

The two-day meeting will feature five key topics:

- Perspectives on Equine Identification and Traceability;
- Equine Identification Technology and Electronic Health Records:
- Equine Traceability;
- Microchip Data Storage Systems; and
- Advancing Identification and Equine Health.



Speakers throughout the sessions will represent a broad range of insight and expertise, from industry leaders to service providers as well as private practitioners and state and federal animal health officials. Details on the agenda can be found here (<a href="http://animalagriculture.org/2017-Equine-Forum/Agenda">http://animalagriculture.org/2017-Equine-Forum/Agenda</a>). The meeting will include breakout sessions for open discussion and input into how to advance traceability and particularly data storage.

Registration is now open for the event – view the latest information and details at <a href="http://animalagriculture.org/2017-Equine-Forum/Home">http://animalagriculture.org/2017-Equine-Forum/Home</a>.