



# USAHA News Release

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

PO Box 8805, St. Joseph, MO 64508

816-671-1144

[www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org)

## 112<sup>th</sup> USAHA Annual Meeting Approaches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 27, 2008

CONTACT: Ben Richey  
(816) 671-1144; [brichey@usaha.org](mailto:brichey@usaha.org)

The United States Animal Health Association is making plans for its 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, October 23-29, 2008. The meeting is held in conjunction with the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

The feature of this year's meeting will be Foot-and-Mouth Disease: If "When" Happened. Program chairs Dr. Don Hoenig, USAHA President-elect and Dr. David Steffen, AAVLD President-elect, have compiled an excellent program for this year's Joint Scientific Session. The Monday Joint Scientific Session, scheduled for October 27, will take a look at the United States' current preparedness for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in this country. The program will feature presentations on federal and state coordination on response plans, laboratory capabilities, international experiences, research in vaccines and other technology, and industry perspectives on key issues.

"Although much attention has been devoted to recent events involving FMD in the United Kingdom and South America as well as other parts of the world, it's been several years since we've refocused our attention to FMD in a national forum," says Hoenig.

With the emergence of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in late 2005, many industry, state and federal animal health representatives have had their emergency response energies drawn toward upgrading plans for responding to this serious threat.

"The planning committee for the 2008 Joint Scientific session felt that the time was right to take another look at the status of this country's FMD preparedness including a review of new countermeasures for FMD, such as vaccines and therapeutants, new developments in diagnostics and a fresh look at continuity of business planning during an FMD event," says Hoenig.

The tentative agenda is as follows:

*Dr. Alfonso Torres, Cornell University, Moderator*

- Joint Presentation on the Status of the FMD Response Plan, coordination between states and DHS
  - *Drs. Jose Diez, USDA-APHIS-Emergency Programs and Bob Hooks, DHS*
- The NAHLN and laboratory response, surge capacity, testing issues
  - *Dr. Barbara Martin, USDA-APHIS-VS*
- Recent diagnostic and molecular epidemiology data from the 2001 and 2007 outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the UK
  - *Dr. Don King, DEFRA, United Kingdom*

-More-

- DHS and ARS New Vaccine research, countermeasures, commercialization prospects, allocation of vaccine in an outbreak, NVS
  - *Drs. Tam Garland and Luis Rodriguez*
- FMD Eradication efforts in South America, current status of the disease. Vaccination strategies in countries that are vaccinating
  - *Dr. David Ashford, USDA-APHIS-International Services, Sao Paulo, Brazil*
- Issues for the Dairy Industry in an FMD Outbreak
  - *Jaime Jonker, National Milk Producers Federation*
- Issues for the Beef Industry in an FMD Outbreak
  - *Dr. Elizabeth Parker, National Cattlemen's Beef Association*
- Issues Facing the Swine Industry
  - *Dr. Paul Sundberg, National Pork Board*
- Consumer perspectives: consumer perceptions, product marketing during an outbreak
  - *Dick Crawford, McDonald's Corporation*
- Panel discussion Q&A

USAHA's 31 committees will have scheduled meetings, along with the AAVLD Plenary and Scientific Sessions and committees. A full schedule of events can be found at <http://www.usaha.org/meetings/2008/index.shtml>. Committee agendas and other details will be posted at the above site as they are available.

Registration and hotel information is also available on-line. The Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel is the location for the 2008 meeting. A block of rooms has been reserved at a rate of \$130.00 per night, plus taxes and fees. Simply reference "Health" when making your reservation. Reservations should be made before September 21, 2008 to ensure the group rate. Meeting registration can be done online, or by using the printable registration form. The deadline for pre-registration is October 10, 2008.

USAHA/AAVLD will offer a special spouse's tour to the Biltmore Estate and Gardens. Separate registration is required for this day-long tour, to take place on Monday, October 27.

For questions or more information about the USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meetings, go to [www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org) or [www.aavld.org](http://www.aavld.org), or call 816-671-1144.

###

USAHA, this nation's animal health forum for over a century, is a science-based, dues-supported, voluntary organization whose membership includes state, federal and international animal and public health agencies, allied industry and professional organizations, as well as individual members representing academia, animal owners and animal health professionals. USAHA primarily serves as a forum for communication and coordination among animal health constituents on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health. USAHA operates with 31 species- and subject-oriented committees, and hosts an annual meeting each year with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.