



USAHA and AAVLD Set Sights on Reno

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) are pleased to invite you to the 111th Annual Meeting/50th Annual Conference. This year marks a special year for AAVLD, celebrating their 50th Annual Conference.

This year's events will be held in Reno, Nevada at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel. October 18 to 24 are the dates for this year's event.

The 2007 Annual Meeting will feature a USAHA/AAVLD Scientific Session focused on "Examining the Roles of AAVLD and USAHA Concerning Major Diseases." The theme follows the roots of the organizations' successes in disease control and eradication programs.

"We've assembled an excellent array of speakers with in-depth knowledge of their fields. They have been asked to address the following points in the Monday joint scientific session,"

says AAVLD President-elect Grant Maxie, who co-chairs the joint session with USAHA president-elect Jim Leafstedt. The program will feature:

- An overview of where we are regarding the developed science of dealing with the specific disease;
- The status of development of solutions to mitigate or eliminate the disease;
- What tools may be absent that limit future progress; and
- What role can either AAVLD or USAHA play in development of programs from preventing control and/or eradication of the diseases.

"This year, we wanted to look at how the two organizations can positively impact economically significant diseases for our producers," says Leafstedt.

Speakers include:

- Dr. Gary Egrie - Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) of Fish;
- Dr. Steve Roney - *Salmonella* in

Poultry;

- Dr. Cindy Wolf – Scrapie in Sheep;
- Dr. Dale Grotelueschen – Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) in Cattle;
- Dr. Scott Dee – Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS);
- Dr. Charles Issel – Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA); and
- Mr. John Adams - John's Disease.



Will Hueston will moderate the General Session. This session will provide a look at the status of these diseases, their impact to our food animal producers and owners, and what potential paths should be explored to reduce their risks. Plan to take in the thought-provoking presentations and spirited discussion, both during the session and throughout the meeting.

["Reno" continued on page 3]

AAVLD to Celebrate 50 Years

AAVLD's 50th Anniversary AAVLD Plenary Session on Saturday, Oct. 20 is titled "Past, Present and Future of Veterinary Laboratory Medicine." The session will review the history of AAVLD, plus look into the crystal ball at how emerging technologies and client needs may change the way diagnosticians provide service. In addition, AAVLD's scientific program includes more than 120 scientific abstracts and more than 40 posters, along with an extensive range of committee meetings and social events, including a special auction to commemorate 50 years of AAVLD.

Inside...

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USAHA President's Remarks

This year with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) has been one of "moving to pastures anew." The office has been relocated to St. Joseph, Mo. from Richmond, Va. I am pleased to announce that the transition has gone smoothly, much to the appreciation of Linda Ragland and J Lee Alley. Ben Richey, Executive Director, has hired an assistant, Kelly Janicek, so do not be surprised when you hear a new voice when you call the office! Many thanks to Ben, Kelly, Linda and J Lee for their hard work over the last few months to make the move as seamless as possible. I must also thank Dr. Dick McCapes, USAHA Past President, for archiving historical documents and meeting proceedings for the cross-country move.

The summer has been busy as your President. In July, I represented the association at the dedication ceremony for the National Centers for Animal Health's new High Containment Large Animal Facility in Ames, Iowa, an event that I know many of you have put forth great efforts to accomplish. I was pleased that USAHA was invited to offer remarks from the podium. I was fortunate to be extended the privilege of introducing Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns at the event, which speaks to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recognition of the USAHA efforts.

"The USAHA recognized the need for modernization of our facilities almost ten years ago," stated Kurt Zuelke, Center Director of NADC, Diana Whipple, Deputy Director of NADC, Richard Hill, Director of CVB, and Elizabeth Lautner, Director of NVSL, in a letter to the USAHA. "This recognition, along with USAHA's past efforts and involvement, has been a major factor in getting us to this point. We cannot thank you enough for this support!"

Also in July month, I joined colleagues from the USDA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Food and Drug Administration, and the Food Products Association to testify on Food Defense: Post-Harvest Preparedness before the U.S. House of Representatives, Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the USAHA and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. In oral testimony, I stated that, "USAHA at its 2006 Annual Meeting passed a resolution urging Congress to appropriate funding to states for the development of animal emergency management plans and implementation of sustainable animal emergency response capabilities. It is difficult to rationalize that the U.S. government doles out billions to protect our ability to surf the World Wide Web and yet the March 2007 Congressional Research Service report indicates that agriculture has received on average two percent of the non-defense budget over the last five years to assure that we have safe and secure food, one of the primal essentials to sustain life. Agriculture and food defense must become a national priority and require that it be named as a state priority on state strategic plans. We believe that resources should be directed to each state agriculture agency and that Congress and federal departments should develop a detailed integrated budget with substantial dollars for food and agriculture defense, as required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-Nine."

As you read this, the USAHA Executive Committee will have completed its summer meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss timely events with representatives of USDA-APHIS, CDC, DHS, and others. We will continue the strategic planning process to assure

Lee M. Myers

that the business plan and organizational transition are on track.

As we look toward the fall and cooler weather, I trust that you are making plans to attend the 111th Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. With your support, we hope to have another record-breaking year for attendance and are looking forward to the culminating the year's work of the USAHA Committees. Jim Leafstedt, USAHA President-elect, and Grant Maxie, AAVLD President-elect, have developed an intriguing Joint Scientific Session, which is "Examining the Roles of AAVLD and USAHA in Major Diseases." We are looking forward to excellent science-based deliberations. See you there! ■



Knight Visits USAHA



USDA Under Secretary Bruce Knight visited the new USAHA offices in St. Joseph, Missouri, and discussed a number of topics with Ben Richey, including NAIS and potential partnerships. Knight, along with Neil Hammerschmidt, had signed a NAIS agreement with the American Angus Association that day.

The USAHA Newsletter is a service to the members of the association. For comments on this newsletter, please email usaha@usaha.org.

AAVLD President's Remarks

It's our 50th Birthday! At this year's annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, we look forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary since AAVLD was created. We have a program filled with great scientific information but also have a session focusing on the history of where we been and where we are going in the future of veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine. We will have a birthday cake at our President's Reception and Auction to celebrate this momentous event and hope to have auction items that highlight our organization. President-elect Dr. Grant Maxie has been hard at work on the details of our exciting program plans.

In the past many months, AAVLD Laboratories have been working very hard ensuring our quality systems meet the ISO 17025 standards as Accredita-

tion has "raised the bar" requiring all laboratories meet these standards as of January 2007. The AAVLD Accreditation Committee is busy auditing laboratories to this new standard. We are all very supportive of this new standard as this will ensure our laboratory users that we are providing the highest quality results. In addition, we have been busy keeping pace with all the activities occurring within the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Some new initiatives within the NAHLN include the formation of working groups to investigate integrating aquaculture and toxicology into the NAHLN. As we were all very busy with cases of adverse effects of melamine and cyanuric acid in pet foods, and subsequent spillover into agriculture feed, it highlighted

Barbara Powers



the need to put toxicology in the NAHLN. In our program, we will report on our pet food toxicity survey and other aspects of this unfortunate event.

A number of other initiatives are underway and AAVLD is working closely with USDA, National Veterinary Services Laboratory and the NAHLN. Soon, we will be embarking on plans to more actively exercise the NAHLN with tabletop-type exercises. We hope to report on some of these at the meeting in October and keep you apprised of any future activities. We look forward to seeing you in a few short months in Reno. □

Reno (continued from page 1)

Other key meeting events to note include:

- 2007 President's Reception and Dinner, Sunday, Oct. 21.
- AAVLD Posters: Friday, Oct. 19 through Sunday, Oct. 21
- AAVLD Exhibits: Saturday Oct. 20 through Monday Oct. 22
- USAHA District Breakfasts: Sunday Oct. 21
- Food Safety Symposium, featuring E. coli O157:H7: Sunday, Oct. 21
- AAVLD Scientific Sessions: Saturday Oct. 20 and Sunday Oct. 21.
- Spouse's Brunch, Sunday Oct. 21.

The USAHA Committees on Food Safety and Feed Safety will host a joint meeting to focus on the recent melamine issues, and lessons learned from that international situation. This meeting will be held Sunday, Oct. 22

beginning at 12:30 p.m., following the Food Safety Symposium. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information on these events.

A full listing of USAHA's 33 and AAVLD's 29 Committee Schedule, as well as related meetings, is available at www.usaha.org. Committee agendas will be posted to the USAHA web site as they are available. □

RENO FACTS

- The average temperatures in Reno for October are 70°F highs, and 31°F lows.
- Scenic Lake Tahoe is approximately 40 minutes from Reno.
- Reno is the birthplace of Nevada gaming.
- More at www.renotahoe.com

Vital Info

Meeting Registration

- Use the enclosed form to mail or fax to USAHA, paying either by credit card or check.
- Log on to www.usaha.org and click on the meeting registration button to use our secure PayPal® Registration.

Hotel Reservations

John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel:
800-648-1177

Group code: GUSAHA.

Reservations can also be made on-line on the hotel's web site, www.janugget.com. Click on "Meetings" in the pull down menu on the upper right hand side. The standard group rate is \$88.00 per night, plus tax and fees.

- The Nugget offers a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport.

Ames Centers Dedicated, Progress Continues

USAHA President Dr. Lee Myers helped dedicate a new \$85 million USDA facility in Ames, Iowa July 3. The new high containment large animal facility combines several activities into one location and is the second component of a multi-phase, \$460 million modernization project. The Ames Modernization Project is the largest construction project in the history of USDA. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, members of Iowa's Congressional delegation and over 250 invited guests and employees attended the dedication.

"Construction of this state-of-the-art animal health center is an important

milestone in USDA's efforts to provide first-class animal health services," said Johanns. "The work here has generated tremendous benefits for livestock, agricultural workers and consumers of agricultural products."

The "high-containment" designation means the building is designed for optimal safety and security because the scientists will work with a variety of endemic, zoonotic and foreign animal diseases in what is called Biological Safety Level 3 (BSL3) space. This includes biocontai-



ment features such as airtight walls, filtered air and liquid waste treatment technology.

The new building contains more than 155,000 square feet and will house cattle, bison, elk, deer, reindeer, sheep and hogs. It includes designated areas for ARS research as well as for APHIS diagnostics testing, training and biologic product evaluation. The work completed in this new facility will contribute to the safeguarding of the nation's \$100 billion livestock industry.

The final phase of the modernization

A Decade of Work

USAHA became involved in a push for the renovation, back in 1998 following a presentation by NADC acting director Dr. Steve Bolin to the USAHA Committee on Government Relations. Dr. Bolin's presentation was the spark that initiated USAHA's dedication and leadership to the rebuilding the nation's animal health research and diagnostic laboratories that continues to this day. At that time, the Committee and the Association placed what later would be known as the "Master Plan" for NADC, NVSL and CVB among its highest priorities for the next decade.

With the concurrence of the USAHA President Jones Bryan and the Board of Directors, Past President Dr. Dick McCapes traveled to the NADC/NVSL/CVB facilities in Ames in March and July, 1998, to gather a first-hand look at the facilities. He shared reports to the membership through the USAHA newsletter.

At the Annual Meeting in 2000, Bob Frost led efforts to garner committee sponsorship for a resolution to fully support the Master Plan. Resolution 1 was passed unanimously by the membership to support the Master Plan for Facility Consolidation and Modernization of NADC, NVSL and CVB facilities. Letters were sent by 2001 president Dr. Bob Hillman to President Bush, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and Congressional Leadership to urge approval of this plan, and provide the estimated \$447 million to rebuild.

A newsletter in 2000 reiterated the importance to members of the need for the upgrade. President Ernie Zirkle stated in his "President's Corner" article stated "Support of USDA's

construction plan for animal disease research and diagnostic laboratories remains of highest priority to our Association." Frost also included an article highlighting USAHA's efforts to promote the Master Plan.

In June, 2001, USAHA published a special edition newsletter on USDA's Ames Laboratories. The 32-page special edition provided an excellent, in-depth look at the importance of this facility upgrade. McCapes, editor of the special edition, and Frost spent time visiting with NADC, NVSL and CVB administrators and researchers, Iowa State University representatives, and other supporters of the Master Plan. McCapes and Frost spent time at the Ames laboratories in July 2000 visiting with NADC, NVSL and CVB administrators and researchers, Iowa State University representatives, and other supporters of the Master Plan to develop information for the special edition. USAHA President Ernie Zirkle and the Board of Directors supported this initiative. Six months of work on this document proved highly useful as a tool to further rally support for the Master Plan, at numerous levels of the industry and government. The work proved effective, culminated at the dedication ceremony.

"A lot of individuals, committees, USAHA administrations and, above all, the United States Animal Health Association itself were involved—over many years," says McCapes. "And the fact that USAHA has been the nation's premier animal health forum since 1897 with a mission specifically designed to address issues of this nature made it a natural leader."

Special thanks to Dick McCapes and Bob Frost for input.

includes a consolidated lab and a low-containment animal facility, which are still under construction. By 2009, when the project is expected to conclude, the Ames complex will be one of the largest animal health centers in the world. It will have about one million square feet of laboratory and animal facilities, including the BSL3 space.

The new buildings at the National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) in Ames will replace aging facilities, some of which are over 40 years old. In addition to structural inadequacies, the overall needs for animal health work have changed since the facilities were built. USAHA and other stakeholders recognized the need for replacing and improv-

ing facilities in Ames to meet the needs of livestock and poultry industries in order to remain competitive in world markets, protect against emerging diseases, and ensure that systems are in place to respond to disease outbreaks.

The NCAH provides facilities and services for three units within two agencies:

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), which serves as a national and international reference laboratory and provides diagnostic services, reagents and training; and
- Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) National Animal Disease Center (NADC), which conducts research concerning animal health and diseases with

an agricultural impact;

- APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics, (CVB) which regulates vaccines, bacterins, antisera, diagnostic kits and other biological products for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of animal diseases.

The day's events included a dedication ceremony, guided tours of the new facility and a reception. The USAHA was recognized as an honored stakeholder organization, and Dr. Myers addressed the audience during the ceremony, including the honor of introducing Secretary Mike Johanns.

"The completion of this world class facility has been a top priority of our association," said Dr. Myers. ■

OIE Report

By Jim Leafstedt

The 75th General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) was held in Paris, France, from

May 20-25, 2007. The members of the United States' delegation included:

- Dr. Ron DeHaven, OIE Delegate and former Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator
- Mr. Bruce Knight, Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP), USDA
- Dr. Charles Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, MRP, USDA
- Dr. John Clifford, Deputy Administrator, APHIS, Veterinary Services
- Dr. Peter Fernandez, Regional Director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, APHIS, International Services.
- Dr. Michael David, Director, Sanitary International Standards Team, APHIS, VS
- Dr. Peter Merrill, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Aquaculture Specialist, APHIS, VS.

Additionally, members of key industry associations were in attendance, including:



- Mr. James Leafstedt, President-elect, United States Animal Health Association
- Dr. Lyle Vogel, Director of Scientific Activities, American Veterinary Medical Association

- Dr. Barbara Powers, President, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
- Dr. Paul Sundberg, Animal Agriculture Coalition

More than 600 participants, representing 144 countries or territories, as well as observers from more than 23 regional and international organizations, attended the 75th Annual General Session of the International Committee of OIE. The OIE has been recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the standard-setting body for animal health. In that capacity, the OIE develops and establishes the health standards for the safe trade of animals and animal products. During 2006, two new countries joined the OIE—Fiji and Cape Verde, bringing the membership up to 169 countries.

The USAHA has had the honor

of being represented at the OIE by the President-elect for the past several years. This opportunity certainly leaves an impression of the global nature of USAHA's animal health concerns.

Leafstedt noted, "I appreciated greatly this exposure to the worldwide cultural, political and geographic nature of disease problems in a world of international business and trade, scientific and uniform standards become most important. Much of the real work of OIE goes on throughout the year, but the presentation and formal process that takes place is very interesting. This opportunity certainly has informed me of the important work of USAHA in developing standards and programs for reduction and/or elimination of disease."

The OIE experience allowed valuable interaction with the official U.S. delegation, as well as representatives from other countries. Following are some key OIE activities.

- Standard-setting, diagnostic test certification and veterinary expertise
 - The worldwide zoonository situation
- ["OIE" continued on page 7]

News and Headlines

Dr. Glenn Plumb Receives NPS Director's Award

The National Park Service announced the recipients of the 2006 Director's Awards for Natural Resource Stewardship. The seven winners have exhibited leadership in the effort to preserve park ecosystems. The awards was presented during a banquet at the George Wright Society Biennial Conference in St. Paul, Minn., in April.

Dr. Glenn Plumb, natural resources chief, Yellowstone National Park, Wyo., was presented with the Professional Excellence in Natural Resources Award. Plumb is the chair of the USAHA Committee on Brucellosis.

Hoenig Elected to AVMA Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Donald E. Hoening will represent agricultural agencies on the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine. Hoening, who is the State Veterinarian for Maine, and serves at the first Vice President for USAHA, was elected at the AVMA meeting in July.

Dr. Dale Schwindaman Receives AVMA 2007 Alumni Recognition Award

Dr. Dale F. Schwindaman, Rockville, Md., has been selected by the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and its Veterinary Medical Alumni Association to receive a 2007 Alumni Recognition Award. The award is in recognition for time and effort devoted to advancing veterinary medicine and for being an exemplary role model for future alumni in a professional and commu-

nity setting.

The award was presented at the annual convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Washington, D.C., on July 16. Dean Ralph Richardson presented the award on behalf of the K-State Veterinary Medical Alumni Association.

Dr. Schwindaman retired in November 1996 after a 40-year career with the United States Department of Agriculture in regulatory veterinary medicine with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), then the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Smith Named Acting APHIS Administrator

Bruce Knight, under secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's marketing and regulatory programs, announced on July 30 the appointment of Cindy Smith as the new acting administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Smith is acting as a replacement for Dr. Ron DeHaven, who retired on Aug. 3, after 28 years with APHIS. DeHaven served as administrator since 2004. Since April, Smith has been APHIS associate administrator. Before that, beginning in 2002, she served as deputy administrator for biotechnology regulatory services.

Montana, Wyoming Name New State Veterinarians

Drs. Walter Cook and Martin Zaluski have been appointed to State Veterinarian positions in Wyoming and Montana, respectively.

Zaluski is the successor to Dr. Tom Linfield, who is now employed with USDA. According to the Montana Department of Livestock, Zaluski is expected to begin his new duties in September. He is a graduate of Michi-

gan State University, and comes most recently from North Carolina, serving as head of emergency programs within their agriculture department.

Cook has served the state as wildlife veterinarian for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and in 2004 was hired as assistant state veterinarian. When State Veterinarian Dwayne Oldham resigned in January 2007, Cook moved into that position on a temporary basis.

Cook received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from University of California, Davis, 1994, and a PhD, University of Wyoming, Laramie, 1999. In 2002 while working in Wyoming, Cook became Board Certified by The American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine.

USAHA/NASAHO Member Participates in South America FMD Review

United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) past president and National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) member Rick Willer recently returned from a two-week long review of a portion of Colombia, South America. The review was part of a process to assess the risk of allowing the importation of beef into the United States. Willer, who currently serves as Arizona State Veterinarian, represented the NASAHO on a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) team looking at Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) controls within and around a "meat trading zone" located in the northern part of the country.

The five-member team, led by Dr. Silvia Kreindel of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), spent two full weeks visiting a number of sites to obtain a pre-

liminary assessment on the risk to the U.S. livestock industry should beef be approved for export. While Willer and the team indicate that the Colombian FMD program has many strengths, a number of issues were identified that may pose risk to the U.S. If these potential risks can be mitigated adequately, APHIS will complete a risk

assessment. Once completed, the risk assessment will be used by APHIS as its foundation for making decisions on what import restrictions are necessary. The results of the assessment will be released publicly for comment before APHIS implements any regulatory changes.

More information on the risk assessment is at www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports.shtml. □



Dr. Rick Willer, Arizona State Veterinarian (second from left) represented the National Assembly on a two-week FMD review in Columbia. Pictured is the review team, which included USDA officials and Columbian agriculture officials, flew into parts of Columbia by military helicopter, which exemplify the challenges faced in some parts of the country.

OIE (continued from page 5)

has been examined and commented in detail;

- The International Committee confirmed the world situation for highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 stabilized but recommended to remain vigilant;
- Consistent with the framework of its usual standard-setting activities, the Committee updated and adopted new international standards, aimed at providing better safeguards for the sanitary safety of world trade, as well as guidelines to better implement surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses in countries;
- Based on the unprecedented outbreaks of bluetongue in northern Europe in 2006, the code chapter on the disease was updated;
- The session validated the Platelia Rabies II diagnostic kit of Bio-Rad laboratory, the first diagnostic kit to undergo the new validation and certification procedure for diagnostic assays and to appear on the OIE assays register;
- The international Committee accredited the application of four new Collaborating Centers and 14 Reference Laboratories, taking the OIE network to a number of 199 worldwide;
- Two technical items were presented and debated during the Session and

gave rise to Resolutions passed by the International Committee:

- The use of epidemiological models for the management of animal diseases;
- The role of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers in providing permanent support for the objectives and mandates of the OIE;
- The high level of scientific expertise of the speakers and the quality of the debates that followed the presentation of each technical item will have served to promote the global application of concepts that are essential for improved control of animal diseases and zoonoses;
- The Committee also voted a resolution allowing the People's Republic of China to take full part in OIE's activities.
- Official OIE sanitary status recognition of Member Countries;
- The official status recognition procedure, followed as always a strict democratic process in which the OIE Scientific Commission, renowned international experts and all 168 Member Countries were involved at different stages;
- The new classification criteria for official sanitary status recognition on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), adopted in 2006, were applied for the first time. A first new list of countries or zones recognized with a

BSE controlled risk or negligible risk was confirmed. Notably, the United States was granted controlled risk status. The Session also approved the lists of countries or zones recognized by the OIE as being free from: foot and mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and rinderpest;

- The OIE reiterated its objective, shared with the FAO, to declare the world free of rinderpest by 2010.

Animal welfare

- Member Countries brought their support to the new 'Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare' proposed by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), a consortium of 200 non-governmental organizations which is also a permanent member of the OIE international working group on animal welfare;

Agreements signed

A memorandum of understanding with WSPA was signed stressing on an increased collaboration between the two parties.

Other agreements were signed with: the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH), CAB International and Safe Supply of Affordable Food for Everyone Everywhere (SSAFE). □

NEW ADDRESS:

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Phone: 816-671-1144

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USAHA Lands New Home in Missouri

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) announced in early July the relocation of its headquarters to St. Joseph, Mo., and is now conducting operations from the new offices. USAHA has previously been located in Richmond, Va.

"This is a very exciting time for USAHA," says USAHA president and Georgia State Veterinarian Lee M. Myers. "We have been pleased with the results of our transition to Missouri, and plan to continue the same valuable contribution to the animal health community."

USAHA has proceeded with caution during the last few months, knowing the challenges of such a move. "The first few weeks have been crucial for our continuity," says Myers. "We

hope to transition seamlessly during this time period, work out any minor bugs, and then continue gearing up for the Annual Meeting."

Executive director Ben Richey, who has been working diligently alongside Linda Ragland and J Lee Alley to execute the move, says, "I've been fortunate to have Linda and J Lee working with me during the move, there's much to consider during a time like this, and their input has been invaluable."

Ragland plans to retire at the end of 2007, as does Dr. Alley from his position as USAHA Secretary. Both have been involved with the organization for a number of years. Their retirement, coupled with the search for a new executive director, led to USAHA's new home in St. Joseph.

And though the Richmond office is now empty as the lease expires, Linda will still be reachable at the same number, 804-285-3210, through the annual meeting.

With the new move, we're pleased to introduce Kelly Janicek as the newest addition to the USAHA staff. Kelly, a native of Wisconsin, brings some diverse experience in the insurance industry, as well as banking and most recently animal health. She also brings a positive attitude, and is quickly learning the ways of USAHA. Be sure to greet her in Reno! ■