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FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

(President Demaree's article will return next issue)

Hello Colleagues,

Let's talk about Networking! Networking is how we share information about prospective jobs. We are in a great position to do this with our website. Simply sign in to the Member area. Then click on JOB BOARD. You can post jobs for free as follows:

1. Visit our AAFSPHV website at [Home (aafsphv.org)].
2. Log in using your credentials. This will be your email address that you joined under, and your password. Request a new password if you can't remember or haven't logged in

as yet. And a new one will be sent immediately.

3. Go to the Job Board and input the data. It's as easy as that!

Next head over to our social media sites and Share/ Follow Us:

- o <https://www.facebook.com/aafsphv> for our FaceBook Group
- o <https://www.aafsphv.org/youtube.php> this is the link off of our AAFSPHV Website to find our YouTube Channel. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel and SHARE the link to it.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me on email :

Donna DeBonis, DVM, MS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VP



AAFSPHV Bylaws

July you will get an email from me asking you to vote on updated Bylaws for our organization. When we were reviewing the current bylaws, we saw that voting by mail was in the bylaws and now that we conduct business electronically, the bylaws needed to be updated. When you get the email, please review and vote. I will highlight the changes we made in the accompanying email.

Lafontaine Memorial Scholarship: The application period closed on June 30th. Our scholarship sub-committee will review the applications in July and the scholarship funds will be awarded to the selected student in August.

Quarterly Newsletter

Thank you to the members who responded to our survey about our newsletter. The editor works hard to put this newsletter together each quarter and they want to ensure that it serves our member's needs. We have reviewed the member comments from the newsletter survey and your Board will discuss the Editor position and the newsletter at the July board meeting.

Past President Donna DeBonis and Director Mike Gilsdorf have generously volunteered their time to publish the last 2 newsletters. Thanks Donna and Mike for your time and expertise.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Board and Director positions to be filled by our annual meeting in October 2025:

Officers: President Elect, Treasurer and Recording Secretary

Director, State/Local Government
Director, Private/Corporate Practice
Director, At Large

If you are interested in nominating a member for any of these positions or if you would like to nominate yourself, please go to this link for a [fillable nomination form](#).

If you have questions about the open positions please contact Katherine, your EVP at executivevp@aafsphv.org

Interim Editors' Note

This issue is the result of the combined efforts of myself and Mike Gilsdorf. We are concentrating on a more human interest approach with this issue, in order to take the chance to highlight some of our AAFSPHV members. We want to share your stories and hope you will submit your professional news. Also, if you see a name with a clickable link, it will go to their Interview on AAFSPHV YouTube Channel! Please let [Dr. Waters](#) know if you enjoy this content and send your articles to her.

Donna DeBonis & [Mike Gilsdorf](#)

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

The AAFSPHV is now publishing member interviews! Be sure to subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) and subscribe and listen wherever you get your podcast.



We want at least 1000 subscribers 2025!

Please Update Your Member Profile

Here's how you can update your profile:

1. Visit our AAFSPHV website at aafsphv.org
2. Log in using your credentials.
3. Navigate to the Member Information section and click on the "Change Contact/Profile Info"
4. Update your contact information, current position, and a brief bio.
5. Feel free to upload a recent photo to put a face to your name.

By updating your profile, you not only help us connect the dots within our community but also enable us to provide you with relevant updates, networking events, and opportunities tailored to your interests and expertise.

We also have exciting plans for the future, including webinars featuring distinguished speakers (Think Free CE!), and advocacy at the AVMA. Our organization has designated seats in the House of Delegates, Food Safety Advisory Committee, The Committee on Antimicrobials and the Legislative Advisory Committee where our representatives work to support a safe food supply, strong public health initiatives and legislation that benefits veterinary public health.

Let's rekindle the spirit of our AAFSPHV community and make 2024 a year of reconnection, inspiration, and growth. Your involvement is highly valued, and we are excited to witness the positive impact we can create together. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant alumni network. We look forward to seeing your updated profiles and reconnecting with you soon.

Your 2024 Officers and Board of Directors

Looking for DIRECTOR AT LARGE

The AAFSPHV is seeking candidates for the following Board of Directors positions for the 3 term Oct 2025- 2028

Director, At Large

Director, State/Local Government

Director, Private/Corporate Practice

We welcome self-nominations. Information about this position is listed below. **AVMA membership** is required for our Governing Board members. Directors are members of the governing board. Meetings are held via Zoom for 1 hour once a month. Directors are encouraged to participate in one of our standing committees: Finance, Communication, Education and Student Outreach.

Members who would like to nominate themselves or another member should [fill out the nomination form](#).

DUTIES OF DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Section 1: The minimum number of Directors of this association shall be six, with one Director from each of the following employment sectors: Federal (Civilian), State/Local, Uniformed Services, Private, Education/Research/Extension, and At-Large.

Section 2: The terms of office for the current Directors shall be three years and their terms shall be staggered.

Section 3: The Directors will serve as members of the Governing Board and will provide specialized employment sector advice, support, and assistance in determining the policies and pursuing the objectives of the association.

Section 7: All members of the Governing Board shall be current AVMA members.

Questions? contact Katherine Waters executivevp@aafsphv.org

CALL TO ACTION

Members,

We want to keep our organization strong and relevant. To represent the public health and food safety sectors of our profession, we need to boost our membership numbers. To continue our free RACE CE webinars and scholarship programs we need to increase our income. To keep our Allied Organization status in AVMA we need to increase our member numbers.

If you know of veterinarians who would be interested in joining our organization please copy and paste the Member Recruitment information below into a text or email and send it to them now. Please support AAFSPHV and recruit your colleagues, so they can enjoy these **benefits**.

Become a Member for \$50/Year!

When you become a member of AAFSPHV, you join the ranks of veterinarians and veterinary students from all over the country who maintain an active interest in public health, food safety and veterinary preventive medicine and strive to promote the science and art of public health.

Benefits of Membership include access to:

- Free monthly online CE in public health via our partnership with the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM)
- The Quarterly, our newsletter with association and member news and a compendium of abstracts relating to veterinary public health and food safety
- Representation on the AVMA House of Delegates, Food Safety Advisory and Legislative Advisory committees
- Our new website with a CE calendar, forums, and a jobs board
- Our YouTube and Podcast channels featuring interviews with veterinarians working in public practice, academia, and industry
- Our LinkedIn Group for job postings and discussions
- Networking with veterinarians across all sectors of public health and food safety
- Mentor veterinarians for informational interviews and job or career advice
- Complimentary first year membership to recent DVM, MS in Food Safety, and MPH graduates and new ACVPM diplomats
- Scholarships to help cover travel and expenses for student members to attend the AVMA Annual Meeting and other meetings and Veterinary Leadership Conference
- NEW in 2023: the Dan Lafontaine Memorial scholarship fund for MPH or public health/food safety MS tuition for DVM students and graduate veterinarians.

To join, visit our website: <http://aafsphv.org/membership>

FROM THE AVMA FOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE DELEGATE

Call for Members for the new Pet Food Safety Issues Working Group

Are you concerned about **pet food safety**? Do you have expertise or education in this topic? If so, please join us here to work on **Pet Food Safety issues**. AAFSPHV is creating a working group to **discuss pet food safety** and develop guidance for professionals in the area and the public. All AAFSPHV members are invited to participate as we discuss pet food safety issues as well as items brought up before the AVMA Food Safety Committee. Paulo Mohyla is our delegate and Donna DeBonis is the alternate to the AVMA Committee and will be bringing items from there up for discussion, as well as emerging issues related to this theme.



In addition to Pet Food Safety, we will also be taking a look at Animal Feed issues.

So, those of you in Food Animal Production are also encouraged to join in on this discussion. (If you are interested in being considered for the working group, please send an email to Paulo at paulomohyla@gmail.com with your name, title, location, and professional experience related to this area. All meetings are expected to be remote with no more than 4 hours of commitment per month).

Please bring your topics to this discussion board as well as any applicable free CE, so we can post it on our AAFSPHV Event Calendar. -Paulo Moyhla, DVM

AVMA NEWS FROM THE 2024 CONVENTION



FROM THE AVMA HOD DELEGATE

Greetings AAFSPHV Members!

The 2024 AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) Summer Session was held June 20-21 in conjunction with the AVMA Convention in Austin, TX. It was another productive and successful meeting!

As a reminder, the HOD is the principal body within the AVMA responsible for establishing policy and providing direction for matters relating to veterinary medicine. It is comprised of one delegate and one alternate delegate from each of the Principal Veterinary Organizations (including each state, the District of Columbia, and territories belonging to the U.S.) as well as select Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations (including AAFSPHV), the Uniformed Services, and the Student AVMA. The HOD meets twice per year—once in January in conjunction with the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference and once during the summer in conjunction with the AVMA Convention.

To maintain our vital representation in the AVMA HOD, a certain percentage of our AAFSPHV membership must also be AVMA members. Therefore, we encourage all of you to be AVMA members so that we can continue to bring this important voice to our profession.

Highlights from our 2024 HOD Summer Session include:

Resolutions

- [Resolution 7](#) - Supersede policy on transport, sale yard practices, and humane slaughter of hoofstock and poultry
 - The revised policy was developed by the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee and submitted to the House by the BOD. The HOD voted to approve the revised policy.
- [Resolution 8](#) - Revised principles of veterinary medical ethics (PVME)
 - The document has been restructured to improve clarity and usability and now features a Code of Conduct that comprises three sections: provide competent medical care, prioritize patient welfare in balance with client needs and public safety, and uphold standards of professionalism.
 - After approving a handful of edits, the HOD voted to approve the document as revised.
- [Resolution 9](#) - Honoring and commending the role of active and reserve military veterinarians of the uniformed services of the United States of America
 - The Michigan VMA (MVMA) submitted this resolution. Consensus among the HOD was that the measure should encompass veterinarians in all branches of uniformed services, to include the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps, so the language was amended to accomplish this. The MVMA supported the changes and the HOD voted to approve the resolution, as revised.



Veterinary Information Forum (VIF)

During the Veterinary Information Forum, the House of Delegates (HOD) and Reference Committees discussed the following topics:

- Professional Liability
 - The HOD voted unanimously to refer the topic of professional liability to the AVMA Board of Directors to consider two actions: 1) Investigate the development of additional reputation management resources for members. 2) Collaborate with the AVMA PLIT to develop an omnichannel approach to educate members on programs and questions related to liability and similar issues.
- Model Veterinary Practice Act (MVPA)
 - The MVPA is undergoing review by the Council on Veterinary Service (CoVS) and its Expanded Working Group. The CoVS anticipates opening comments on a draft updated MVPA later this year or early next with the hopes of having an updated MVPA presented to the AVMA Board of Directors for consideration in 2025 and to the HOD by summer 2025.
 - During the VIF, topics of discussion included license portability and how to identify duties and supervision of veterinary technicians, veterinary technologists, and veterinary technician specialists. No formal action was taken by the HOD on this topic.
- Use of technology in practice

- Delegates were asked ahead of the VIF to share their experience and thoughts about technologies they use in practice or ones they are considering adopting.
- The AVMA has created a Task Force on Emerging Technologies and Innovation that is charged with identifying needs and strategies to support AVMA members in the practical and responsible use of clinical- and business-augmenting technologies.
- Delegates suggested during the VIF that the Association for Veterinary Informatics be engaged with the task force and that the task force also seek information from the American Medical Association, particularly regarding the use of AI in creating medical records.

House Advisory Panel HPAI Response Update

The AVMA House of Delegates heard from colleagues representing agencies and organizations responding to a multistate outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), specifically avian influenza virus type A (H5N1). Speakers from the HOD's House Advisory Panel and constituent allied veterinary organizations covered the current state of affairs and the challenges veterinarians in the poultry and dairy industries are facing, as well the efforts being taken to protect public and animal health.

Elections

- Dr. Sandra Faeh assumed her role as AVMA President from her successor, Dr. Rena Carlson.
- Dr. Michael Bailey was elected as 2024-25 AVMA President-Elect.
- Dr. Gary Marshall was elected as 2024-26 AVMA Vice President.
- Drs. Mary Ergen and Jennifer Quammen announced their candidacies for 2025-26 AVMA President-Elect.
- Dr. Robert Knapp was elected as 2024-25 AVMA Board of Directors Chair and Dr. Sandy Willis was elected as BOD Vice Chair.

As your AAFSPHV Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the HOD, we are here to serve you and to bring your valuable input on current and emerging topics in veterinary medicine to the forefront. **We want to hear from you and truly value your input.** You can find our contact information listed below. There is also a variety of [AVMA volunteer opportunities](#) available on the AVMA website. Please notify us if you're interested in having AAFSPHV support your interest in a position with a nomination. We look forward to talking with you!

Respectfully submitted,

[Kristen Clark, DVM, MPH, DACVPM](#)
AAFSHPV Delegate
Kristen.Clark@state.mn.us

[Katherine Waters, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CPH](#)
AAFSHPV Executive Vice President &
Alternate Delegate
executivevp@aafsphv.org

Fly In 2024 Write Up

Michele Pfannenstiel DVM Delegate to the LAC



The Legislative Advisory Committee met Feb 5, 2024 as part of the annual AVMA Fly In. We reviewed and discussed the following.

AVMA Policies- There are several. Very few had any changes, none were substantive

Legislative Agenda- The LAC received as information the Legislative Scoring System, GRD Staff Responsibilities, The January 2024 Federal Legislative Update and 118th Legislative Agenda. Kevin Hartley, Dr. Lindsey Hornickel, and Whitney Tyler provided the LAC with updates on legislative activities, including an update on funding the government; NAFV and AVMA's federal veterinarian report language; H.R.4355/S.2892 Rural Veterinary Workforce Act; HR. 1839/S. 993 Combating Illicit Xylazine Act; Farm Bill; and ADUFA/AGDUFA.

This is a Farm Bill year and we are expecting movement in late Q3 and Q4 on the Farm Bill. Of the known language, there is an increased ask of \$5MM on the FARAD database. So far, it has received a positive reception. There is a report on evaluating the loan repayment work (this is not new, we keep trying to get this right). The Vaccine Bank, National Lab Network and Emergency Response appropriations are not known yet.

Xylazine is still an issue. There are 2 versions of the bill, both have considerations for vet med. Both are still being worked out.

New Legislation:

H.R. 6687/S. 1842 Innovative Feed Enhancement and Economic Development Act of 2023 or 'Innovative FEED Act'. This is a stand alone bill to change aspects of the drug approval process. There were questions about enforcement that seemed unanswerable. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Monitor." The motion carried.

H.R. 5041/S.2225 Better Collaboration, Accountability, and Regulatory Enforcement for Animals Act of 2023 or the Better CARE for Animals Act of 2023. This act re-opens the Animal Welfare Act. AAFSPHV stand is that re-opened the AWA is a non starter on any legislation. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Nonsupport." The motion carried.

H.R. 2742 Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act of 2023. This act would allow civil suits on animal welfare issues and has poor language on rare breed birds. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Nonsupport." The motion carried.

H.R. 6585, The Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Nonsupport." This would allow Pell grants for short term and certificate programs. The motion carried.

H.R. 5119, The Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act. This Act creates reporting for small businesses that they are not a shell company. Most small businesses will fall under this and there is language to extend filing of necessary paperwork by 12 months. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Support." The motion carried.

H.R. 3881/S.1838, the Credit Card Competition Act of 2023. This Act concerns swipe fees. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Monitor." The motion carried.

H.R.7035 /S.1108, the Death Tax Repeal Act. This would remove the tax entirely (current exemption is \$13.61MM) AVMA has historically supported repeal of the Death Tax because of how it affects small practices and business. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a position of "Support." The motion carried.

The LAC received as information the following letters to congress/regulatory issues:

- a. PAST Act Letter Sen. Warren and Sen. Crapo
- b. FDA Defining Durations Letter

Board of Directors Update

The BOD is working on two main issues: 1) telemedicine and how we function within the 50+ Practice Acts; and 2) Midlevel practitioners. Both are contentious issues, but little comes in front of the LAC due to the state by state nature of licensing.

The next Brakke Study is forthcoming. This is the AVMA benchmarking study on the veterinary industry. Three main points stood out

There's a disagreement on the numbers. The AVMA says the industry is growing between 1.8% and 2.8%. Industry benchmarking shows 3.8%-4%. The difference is substantial as our gentle readers can tell, and your correspondent believes that like many other industries, there's no one answer, but rather regional answers as the demographics of pet ownership moves.

The time for the average pet owner to book an appointment has normalized back to pre-pandemic levels

There is a new task force on AI in veterinary medicine. As your correspondent is writing this post Convention 2024, she assures you that this task force is desperately needed and some sunshine on the large language models being used on veterinary AI would be much appreciated.

The dates for the upcoming LAC meetings are as follows:

September 17, 2024 4:00-5:30 eastern

December 3, 2024 4:00-5:30 eastern

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Joni Scheftel named recipient of 2024 AVMA Public Service Award



The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) honored Dr. Joni Scheftel, recently retired state public health veterinarian with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) as the winner of the 2024 AVMA Public Service Award. The award, established in 1968, recognizes an AVMA member veterinarian for outstanding public service or contributions to the practice or science of public health and regulatory veterinary medicine.

"Dr. Scheftel's dedication to veterinary public health over the past two decades has been truly remarkable," said Dr. Rena Carlson, president of the AVMA. "Her unwavering commitment to both animal and human health have set a high standard for public service, and her mentorship of future public health leaders have made a lasting impact on the veterinary community."

Dr. Scheftel, a 1982 graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, began her career in mixed practice before transitioning to public health after receiving her MPH from the University of Minnesota in 2001. Starting as an epidemiologist in the MDH that year, she was named state public health veterinarian in 2003, a position she held until retiring earlier this year.

In that role, Dr. Scheftel led the Zoonotic Diseases Unit, overseeing a team of epidemiologists and veterinarians conducting zoonotic disease surveillance, investigating outbreaks, and responding to public health crises involving zoonotic hazards. She acted as the primary liaison between the MDH and other state agencies concerning animal agriculture issues with human health impacts. Her role also included participating in swine and avian influenza response planning, consulting with healthcare providers about zoonotic disease cases, and teaching veterinary students.

She also has served as president of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, president of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, co-chair of the United States Animal Health Association One Health Committee, Minnesota representative to the AVMA House of Delegates, chair of the AVMA Steering Committee for FDA Policy on Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobials, and chair of the AVMA Committee on Antimicrobials.

Dr. Scheftel has been a passionate mentor throughout her career, advising dozens of MPH students on their projects and providing field experiences or externships for nearly 100 dual degree DVM/MPH students. Her mentees have gone on to hold positions in state departments of agriculture and public health, federal health agencies, private veterinary practice, and industry.

"I was in mixed practice for half my career and in public practice for the other half" said Dr. Scheftel. "The stories are remarkably similar- you are still helping people through your knowledge of veterinary medicine."

Ruby Perry, DVM

Honored by the AVMA



Dr. Ruby Perry received the AVMA Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 AVMA convention. The award recognizes an AVMA member veterinarian who has made significant contributions to the veterinary profession through innovative and transformative leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and who has demonstrated a commitment to advancing these values within the veterinary profession and has brought honor and distinction to the field through their exemplary efforts.

Dr. Perry (Tuskegee '77) is dean and professor of radiology at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, the nation's only veterinary college at a historically Black university. She is immediate past-president of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) and a member of the association's Minority Serving Institutions Working Group.

At Tuskegee since 2007, she has served as a faculty member; acting chair of the Department of Small Animal Medicine, Surgery and Radiology; interim chief of staff in the Office of the President; associate dean for academic affairs; and vice-provost of undergraduate education.

Before Tuskegee, Dr. Perry was on the veterinary faculty at Michigan State University for 20 years, where she was section chief of veterinary radiology and an associate professor of veterinary radiology.

She is the first African American female, board-certified veterinary radiologist in the American College of Veterinary Radiology and received a PhD in educational leadership in 2019 from Keiser University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service *Officer Spotlight*



CDR Catherine Rockwell

”Public health is one of society’s greatest investments. The preamble of the U.S. Constitution states that one of its overriding purposes is to ‘promote the general welfare’ – advancing the well-being of its citizens through, among other things, public health. As Public Health Service officers, we embody that purpose - one of service to community, whether that community is local or global.”

CDR Catherine Rockwell is a senior public health advisor in the Office of Public Health Science at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA FSIS). She also serves as the USPHS Commissioned Corps Liaison to FSIS, providing crucial administrative support to Public Health Service officers, their supervisors, and the agency. FSIS is a regulatory agency and part of a science-based national system ensuring food safety and food defense. FSIS protects the public’s health by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

CDR Rockwell has served in various food safety roles in FSIS over the past 19 years, including field operations, training, policy, and applied epidemiology. CDR Rockwell has led multidisciplinary teams who apply the latest science to modernize inspection and sampling as well as protect consumers from foodborne illness. She has worked on various agency initiatives to advance sampling and revise policy, including the U.S. National Residue Program to test meat and poultry for antibiotics and chemical residues, modernizing poultry slaughter inspection procedures, and developing guidance to provide the meat industry with best practices to produce food. Before joining the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps, she worked in the private sector as a clinical veterinarian, providing preventive medicine and acute medical and surgical care to companion animals. She continues to practice and maintain clinical competency for deployment because of her love of clinical veterinary medicine.

Yasser Mahmmod DVM, MVSc, PhD, FHEA, ARPAS

Dr. Mahmmod started a new position as an Associate Professor of Production Animal Medicine & Epidemiology, at the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Long Island University.

Email: Yasser.Mahmmod@liu.edu



Dr. Mahmmod is an enthusiastic veterinarian, lecturer, and results-oriented researcher. With a career spanning 20 years in clinical practice and academic pursuits, Dr. Mahmmod holds a Ph.D. on cattle health and epidemiology from University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His Ph.D. studies focused on udder health management and mastitis epidemiology in dairy cows. He pursued his postdoctoral fellow training at University of Minnesota, USA. He worked on different dairy production medicine topics, particularly bovine lameness, and herd health management in organic dairy farms in the Midwest. In 2016, he joined University of Copenhagen as a postdoctoral fellow after being awarded an international fellowship “Merit Postdoc Fellowship”. He investigated the epidemiology and diagnostics of contagious mastitis pathogens in dairy herds using Bayesian latent class modelling. In 2018, he joined Animal Health

Research Centre (CReSA) at Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain after receiving the European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship. He worked on metagenomics characterization of microbial communities, animal microbiome, and their interaction with animal health and production. Dr. Mahmmod obtained his DVM followed by a combined internal medicine residency and Master program at Zagazig University. He studied the clinical epidemiology of ticks and tick-borne diseases in cattle and buffaloes in Egypt. Through his academic carrier, he was a recipient of several awards and recognitions, and his research work has been listed as Editor’s Choice in the journal of Dairy Science. For instance, he received the European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, Medal of Excellence from the President of Egypt, best master thesis in veterinary sciences, and State Encouragement Award, etc.).

Before joining the LIU College of Veterinary Medicine as an Associate professor, Dr. Mahmmod had been promoted into several academic positions at research institutions in Denmark, Spain, the USA, China, Egypt, and UAE, starting from an instructor/ demonstrator position in farm animal medicine and epidemiology. Dr. Mahmmod is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a certified expert in digital teaching and learning from Blackboard Academy. He served as a system course team leader and coordinator of many veterinary core courses including veterinary professional practice, veterinary epidemiology, infectious diseases, animal nutrition, animal welfare and animal science. At the international level, Dr. Mahmmod is serving as an expert on the Quadripartite Technical Group on the Economics of AMR (QTG-EA), the WHO, in addition to the United Nations Emergency Management Centre, the FAO. He has supervised many trainees including master, PhD. He has been the recipient of many prestigious grants from various national and international funding agencies. Dr. Mahmmod has published more than 80 manuscripts in top ranked peer-reviewed journals. He is an Ad hoc reviewer and serves on the editorial board of many journals in the field (Frontiers of Vet Sciences, JDS, Animal, PREVET, BMC veterinary research, etc.). He is also a grant reviewer for many funding bodies in the Middle East and Europe (e.g., ASRT, STDF, COST). He is a member of many

professional scientific societies such as ARPAS, EAAP, NMC, ACE, AAFSPHV, European Cattle network, and Mastitis Research Workers Network.

Dr. Mahmmod has a good teaching experience while adopting Bloom's Taxonomy concept in his courses. His teaching style is student-centered, primarily research-oriented teaching. He has developed syllabi and directed courses mainly in livestock production medicine, food animal health, and production. During his interactions with students, Dr. Mahmmod strives to convey his passion for the discipline and to promote a learning environment that fosters student engagement and small group discussion. He encourages cultivating and refining the critical thinking, communication, and methodological skills necessary for future veterinarians to succeed in their research and careers so that they could then go on to improve animal welfare, protect humans against zoonotic diseases, and subsequently make our world better.

Dr. Mahmmod's interdisciplinary approach, incorporating applied food animal medicine epidemiology, microbiology, and data science to addresses practical challenges in livestock health& production. His research interests include bovine herd health management, ruminant population health, infectious diseases of farm animals, tackling of antimicrobial use and AMR in farm animals, biostatistical data management and disease modelling.

Publications - (selected manuscripts)

1. López-Serrano S, Mahmmod Y, Christensen D, Ebensen T, Guzmán CA, Rodríguez F, Segalés J, Aragón V. Immune responses following neonatal vaccination with conserved F4 fragment of VtaA proteins from virulent *Glaesserella parasuis* adjuvanted with CAF®01 or CDA. *Vaccine X*. 2023 Jun 10;14:100330.
2. Zhang X, Yuan H, Yang Z, Hu X, Mahmmod Y, Zhu X, Zhao C, Zhai J, Zhang XX, Luo S, Wang XH, Xue M, Zheng C, Yuan ZG. SARS-CoV-2: An Updated Review Highlighting Its Evolution and Treatments. *Vaccines (Basel)*. 2022 Dec 14;10(12):2145.
3. Zhang X, Yuan H, Mahmmod Y, Yang Z, Zhao M, Song Y, Luo S, Zhang XX, Yuan ZG. Insight into the current *Toxoplasma gondii* DNA vaccine: a review article. *Expert Rev Vaccines*. 2023 Jan-Dec;22(1):66-89.
4. Hag-Ali M, AlShamsi AS, Boeijen L, Mahmmod Y, Manzoor R, Rutten H, Mweu MM, El-Tholoth M, AlShamsi AA. The detection dogs test is more sensitive than real-time PCR in screening for SARS-CoV-2. *Commun Biol*. 2021 Jun 3;4(1):686.
5. Elsohaby I, Mahmmod Y, Mweu MM, Ahmed HA, El-Diasty MM, Elgedawy AA, Mahrous E, El Hofy FI. Accuracy of PCR, mycobacterial culture and interferon- γ assays for detection of *Mycobacterium bovis* in blood and milk samples from Egyptian dairy cows using Bayesian modelling. *Prev Vet Med*. 2020 Aug;181:105054.
6. Bolte J, Zhang Y, Wentz N, Mahmmod Y, Svennesen L, Krömker V. Comparison of phenotypic and genotypic antimicrobial resistance patterns associated with *Staphylococcus aureus* mastitis in German and Danish dairy cows. *J Dairy Sci*. 2020 Apr;103(4):3554-3564.
7. Mahmmod Y, Correa-Fiz F, Aragón V. Variations in association of nasal microbiota with virulent and non-virulent strains of *Glaesserella (Haemophilus) parasuis* in weaning piglets. *Vet Res*. 2020 Feb 3;51(1):7.
8. Svennesen L, Mahmmod Y, Skjølstrup NK, Mathiasen LR, Katholm J, Pedersen K, Klaas IC, Nielsen SS. Accuracy of qPCR and bacterial culture for the diagnosis of bovine intramammary infections and teat skin colonisation with *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Staphylococcus aureus* using Bayesian analysis. *Prev Vet Med*. 2018 Dec 1;161:69-74.

Neil Vezeau DVM, MPH has two new articles in AVMA.

See abstracts below.

Current understanding and knowledge gaps regarding wildlife as reservoirs of antimicrobial resistance

Neil Vezeau, DVM, MPH neil.vezeau@gmail.com

and Laura Kahn, MD, MPH, MPP

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Abstract

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious health issue shared across all One Health domains. Wildlife species represent a key intersection of the animal and environmental domains. They are a relevant but understudied reservoir and route of spread for AMR throughout the environment. Most wildlife AMR research thus far has focused on avian species, terrestrial mammals, and a selection of aquatic and marine species. Pathogens often identified in terrestrial wildlife include enteric zoonotic organisms such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* spp, in addition to nonenterics such as Staphylococci. Resistances have been commonly identified to antimicrobials important in veterinary and human medicine, including β -lactams, tetracyclines, aminoglycosides, and macrolides. Our emerging understanding of the dynamics of AMR distribution across life on Earth provides further opportunities for us to assess the risk it poses to veterinary and human health. Future work will require prioritizing which wildlife most exacerbates and indicates AMR in domestic animals. However, decreasing prices and increasing ease for metagenomic sequencing allows for synergies with expanding wildlife viral disease surveillance. Improved understanding of how wildlife impacts veterinary and human healthcare may increase opportunities for related research funding and global equity in such research. The companion *Currents in One Health* article by Vezeau and Kahn, *JAVMA*, June 2024, addresses in further detail the routes of spread of AMR across different animal populations and actions that can be taken to mitigate AMR with special consideration for wildlife sources.

Spread and mitigation of antimicrobial resistance at the wildlife-urban and wildlife-livestock interfaces

Neil Vezeau DVM, MPH neil.vezeau@gmail.com

and Laura Kahn MD, MPH, MPP

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Abstract

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a health issue common to all One Health domains. Scientific understanding of what drives AMR and how it spreads is continually expanding. One such dimension

of this expanding base of knowledge is the role wildlife populations play as reservoirs and spreaders of AMR. Indirect and direct sharing of resistant pathogens between wildlife and domestic animals occurs in a variety of ways across both the natural and built environment. Though AMR is found across much of the Earth's biome naturally, elevated levels in wildlife are largely attributed to the use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine, along with other uses of antimicrobials in human industry. On the basis of current research, wildlife species appear to be net recipients of AMR overall. However, wildlife can carry and spread AMR across individual ecosystems and to other ecosystems via water, soil, arthropod vectors, and several other routes of conveyance. In addition to creating potential health issues for wildlife animals themselves, this potentially poses risks for both companion and production animals. This is especially due to urban/suburban and rural wildlife, respectively. If health practitioners and other stakeholders are adequately aware, measures can be taken to reduce risks across each interface discussed. The companion Currents in One Health article by Vezeau and Kahn, *AJVR*, June 2024, addresses in further detail the many wildlife reservoirs of AMR that are currently identified, as well as directions for further research.

Food Safety and Public Health in the News

USDA Testing Beef Amid Bird Flu Outbreak

By Robin Foster

Health Day Reporter

April 30, 2024 (Health Day News) -



As bird flu continues to spread among dairy cows, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it is now testing ground beef for any presence of the virus. The agency said it is sampling ground beef bought in grocery stores in states where dairy cattle have tested positive for the virus, also known as H5N1, CNN reported. Officials are also testing samples of muscle tissue from sick cows that have been culled from their herd. Last but not least, the USDA is injecting a “virus surrogate” into ground beef and then cooking it at different temperatures, to see how much virus is killed under each heat setting.

NEWS Sign In USDA Testing Beef Amid Bird Flu Outbreak in Dairy Cows By HealthDay | April 30, 2024 | Save Comment HEALTHDAY 6/26/24, 8:00 PM USDA Testing Beef Amid Bird Flu Outbreak in Dairy Cows <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-04-30/usda-testing-beef-amid-bird-flu-outbreak-in-dairy-cows> 1/8

The agency stressed this testing does not mean the beef supply isn't safe. “USDA is confident that the meat supply is safe. USDA has a rigorous meat inspection process” and “multiple safeguards in place to protect consumers,” the agency said in a statement, CNN reported. “We recommend consumers properly handle raw meats and cook to a safe internal temperature,” which kills germs in meat, the agency added.

U.S. health officials are already testing retail milk samples for live bird flu virus, and none has been found in any of the first batch of samples tested, federal health officials said Friday. Those early findings should reassure the public that the milk sold in stores remains safe, officials added. In the online update, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said the initial test findings likely mean the pasteurization process is killing the virus. "These results reaffirm our assessment that the commercial milk supply is safe," the agency wrote, but testing efforts are continuing. "The FDA is further assessing retail samples from its study of 297 samples of retail dairy products from 38 states," the agency added. "All samples with a PCR-positive result are going through egg inoculation tests, a gold standard for determining if infectious virus is present." "These important efforts are ongoing, and we are committed to sharing additional testing results as soon as possible," the FDA added. FDA officials also tested infant and toddler formulas, which used powdered milk, and did not find any evidence of the virus, the agency noted.

The story is different when it comes to viral fragments of bird flu: genetic bits of the virus have been discovered in roughly 20% of retail milk samples tested in a national survey, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said last week. That earlier finding suggests bird flu has spread far more widely among dairy cows than officials first thought. Samples from parts of the country that have infected dairy herds were more likely to test positive, the agency noted, and regulators stressed there is no evidence yet that cow milk poses a danger to consumers. Still, 33 herds across eight states have been confirmed to have been infected with bird flu, also known as H5N1. "It suggests that there is a whole lot of this virus out there," Richard Webby, a virologist and influenza expert at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, told the New York Times.

6/26/24, 8:00 PM USDA Testing Beef Amid Bird Flu Outbreak in Dairy Cows

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-04-30/usda-testing-beef-amid-bird-flu-outbreak-in-dairy-cows-2/8>

While it is still possible to eradicate bird flu from the nation's dairy farms, Webby noted it is hard to control the outbreak without knowing its full scope. To that end, **the USDA announced last week that it is now requiring mandatory testing of dairy cows moving across state lines.** Before that, testing of cows had been voluntary and focused on cows with obvious symptoms of illness.

As of May 1, 23 people had been tested for the virus, while 44 people were being monitored after exposure to H5N1, the Times reported. Just one human infection has been reported so far, in a dairy worker in Texas who had direct contact with sick cows. The case was mild. Still, sustained spread among cows would give the virus more chances to become more transmissible among humans. Experts believe pasteurization, in which milk is briefly heated, should kill the virus. "And when you destroy the virus, it's going to release genetic material," Samuel Alcaine, a microbiologist and food scientist at Cornell University in New York, told the Times. "It's not surprising" to find them in milk, he added. "It doesn't mean that the milk is not safe."

More information

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on bird flu. SOURCES: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, updates, April 25/26, 2024; CNN; New York Times Copyright © 2024 HealthDay. All rights reserved. Join the Conversation See Comments Tags: food safety, safety 6/26/24, 8:00 PM USDA Testing Beef Amid Bird Flu Outbreak in Dairy Cows

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-04-30/usda-testing-beef-amid-bird-flu-outbreak-in-dairy-cows-3/8>



An official website of the United States government

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cucumbers

Posted June 12, 2024



Fast Facts Illnesses:

196 (34 new) Hospitalizations:

68 (14 new) Deaths: 0 States:

28 states and the District of Columbia (3 new)

Recall: Yes

Investigation status: Active (first posted on June 5, 2024)

Outbreak Investigation Summary

Epidemiologic data show that cucumbers may be contaminated with Salmonella and may be making people sick. Testing identified Salmonella in a cucumber collected as part of this investigation, which resulted in a recall. Further testing showed the Salmonella from the cucumber was a different strain of Salmonella than the one making people sick. CDC is not currently investigating an outbreak of illnesses with this strain. Investigators are collecting more information to see if other cucumbers are affected.

Recalled Food Fresh Start Produce Sales Inc. has recalled • whole cucumbers. 6/26/24, 7:54 PM Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cucumbers | CDC 1/3 Cucumbers were sold in bulk in 24- and 32-count boxes directly to retail distribution centers, wholesalers, and food service distributors in 14 states, but these sellers may have shipped to additional states or re-packaged them for stores. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Shipped from May 17 to May 21. Grown in Florida

This recall does not include English cucumbers or mini cucumbers. Recalled cucumbers should no longer be in stores.

What You Should Do Do not eat any recalled cucumbers. If you recently purchased cucumbers and have them at home, you can check with the store where you purchased them to see if they were part of the recall. If you can't tell, do not eat them. Wash items and surfaces that may have touched the recalled cucumbers using hot soapy water or a dishwasher. Call your healthcare provider if you have any of these severe Salmonella symptoms: Diarrhea and a fever higher than 102°F Diarrhea for more than 3 days that is not improving Bloody diarrhea So much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down Signs of dehydration, such as: Not peeing much; Dry mouth and throat; Feeling dizzy when standing up.

What Businesses Should Do

Do not sell or serve recalled cucumbers. Wash and sanitize items and surfaces that may have come in contact with recalled cucumbers. Stores can also notify customers who may have purchased recalled cucumbers using signs in stores or emails to customers.

Symptoms of Salmonella

Most people infected with Salmonella experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Symptoms usually start 6 hours to 6 days after swallowing the bacteria. Most people recover without treatment after 4 to 7 days. Some people—especially children younger than 5 years, adults 65 years and older, and people with weakened immune systems—may experience more severe illnesses that require medical treatment or hospitalization.

For more information about Salmonella, see the Salmonella Questions and Answers page. ▪ Investigation Details 6/26/24, 7:54 PM Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cucumbers | CDC 2/3

AAFSPHV Quarterly Survey Results

Spring 2024 AAFSPHV Quarterly Survey results:

How often do you read our current newsletter, The Quarterly?

Always:	8
Most of the time:	7
Sometimes:	7
Never:	3

If you answered Sometimes or Never, please tell us why?

I don't have enough time:	9
I not interested in the information contained in the newsletter:	0
I don't like the format of the newsletter:	2
I don't like to open attachments:	3
Other: Please tell us if there are other reasons:	3

Please explain

I usually go back and read it later, because it seems too long to read when I'm going through email. Though I always read it eventually, sometimes I don't remember to read it for weeks.
Didn't realize it existed (am relatively new member)

I have misplaced the log-in

Preferred newsletter delivery method

Delivered as an attachment to an email:	13
Newsletter viewed in the body of the email rather than as an attachment:	12

What sections of the newsletter do you find useful?

Updates from Officers:	14
Committee reports:	13
Member news:	11
How to use the website:	4
Scholarship Information:	3
Abstracts:	12
AVMA committee reports from our designated representatives:	14

Is there additional information or news you would like to see included in the newsletter? Select all that apply.

Current events in food safety and public health:	20
Job opportunities:	12
Member profiles:	5
Other:	0

Please explain

How can we make the newsletter better? (answer optional)

Keep officer updates and committee reports as succinct as possible. I checked Abstracts as being useful, because I usually see a couple of papers I'd like to read, but the amount of effort to produce and volume within the newsletter may not be worth that...

The abstracts are a great addition, but they become so long I don't look at them. Consider a more frequent newsletter, or reducing the number of abstracts in each.

for those who also practice clinical medicine, stories that affect us and the public could be of interest and also as additions to client communications

I honestly do not remember seeing the newsletter if I did get one. The AAFSPHV emails are usually packed with information so that it may have gotten lost in the body of one of the emails. So maybe it should be its own email if that is the case.

When emailing attachments, I also include the text in the body of the email, if possible -- so rather than an "either/or" I would prefer if you asked the question "how do you like to receive the newsletter" with answers "email body" "attachment" "both"

I usually like to file newsletters on my computer, so I can refer to them later if I want to look something up. I also like to scroll when I've opened an email, without having to open an attachment -- so really - it makes sense to have a scrollable newsletter in the email and a link or attachment that can be downloaded. ^_^

I really like the notices of current outbreaks and situations, etc.

Focus on the abstracts. No better way to keep up with issues in public health.

It has great content, but I usually read it on my phone so would prefer it to be mobile friendly. I am less likely to read it when I have to go on my laptop to pull up the pdf for a better viewing experience.