Dear Chairmen Kohl and Kingston and Ranking Members Blunt and Farr:

The Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC) urges Congress to stop the raid on Agriculture aid. Do not place Agriculture – one of the brightest spots in the U.S. economy – in jeopardy. Reverse course and stop the disproportionate cuts to Agriculture. Other agencies must begin doing their fair share to help reduce the federal deficit, just as Agriculture has done over the past few years.

The AAC brings all of U.S. organizations representing animal agriculture together to coordinate major efforts to secure appropriate federal funding which will support animal agriculture research, education, extension and biosecurity needs. We speak solely on behalf of U.S. animal agriculture stakeholders, including those associated with aquaculture, beef, dairy, goats, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and minor food or fiber-producing species.

Agriculture is creating jobs and helping to feed not only the U.S. but the rest of the world. Last year U.S. farmers and ranchers produced $410 billion of goods after spending $227 billion to purchase inputs,
made $65 billion in rent payments, paid $24 billion in wages to employees, and spent $15 billion in interest and financing. While Agriculture would be the 25th largest economy based on the value of goods produced alone if it were its own country, the farm safety net now constitutes less than one quarter of one percent of the federal budget.

Reliable and stable funding, and in some cases increased funding, is essential to support food safety and public health and to harmonize international standards for food and food products. Congress must take prescient steps to strengthen the animal production sector including food and animal research, education, and extension; Congress must also take advantage of the market opportunities to increase the demand for U.S. agriculture and food products.

U.S. farmers and ranchers need to produce more food to meet the needs and demands of an increasing U.S. and world population. The United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization predicts that farmers will have to produce 70% more food by 2050 to feed an additional 2.3 billion people around the globe. U.S. farmers and ranchers depend on reliable funding to help them maintain and protect the basic food supply while providing consumers at home and abroad safe, wholesome, affordable food produced in a sustainable manner. U.S. farmers and ranchers are meeting this challenge while using fewer resources and less land.

AAC makes its FY 2013 recommendations knowing that USDA agencies have suffered disproportionate cuts over these past years. Reductions in discretionary spending for Agriculture are unwarranted. AAC urges Congress to maintain funding, and in some instances increase funding, for programs administered by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Institute for Food and Agriculture including the Economic Research Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, as well as the Foreign Agricultural Service Market Development Programs, Agricultural Research Service, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine and Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

Adopting AAC’s recommendations will provide much-needed support to American agriculture, producers and processors of animal agriculture commodities. It will help ensure that U.S. animal agriculture remains competitive and at the forefront of food production. Finally, it will help our country achieve safer, more nutritious, convenient and affordable foods while helping to increase American jobs and sustain rural economic development. We urge Congress to call upon the Animal Agriculture Coalition for reliable and trustworthy information about all aspects of animal agriculture. Please contact Dudley Hoskins, at 202-296-4031 ext. 201, dhoskins@horsecouncil.org or Gina Luke, at 202-289-3204, gluke@avma.org.

Sincerely,
Dudley Hoskins
Chair, Animal Agriculture Coalition
Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs
American Horse Council

Gina Luke
Vice Chair, Animal Agriculture Coalition
Assistant Director, Governmental Relations Division
American Veterinary Medical Association
## Part II: Summary of AAC Recommended Funding

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<th>Agency or Program</th>
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AAC supports Farm Bill reauthorization at $1 million
National Animal Health Laboratory Network
FADI baseline funding for NAHLN and NPDN:
APHIS allocation:
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Food Safety and Inspection Service

Food and Drug Administration
- Center for Veterinary Medicine
- Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
- Animal Drug User Fee Act

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Discretionary

<table>
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<th>AAC FY2013 Recommendation: $820,000,000</th>
<th>President’s FY2013 Request: $765,000,000</th>
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<td>Enacted FY2012: $816,534,000</td>
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While AAC believes that $1 billion is needed to properly fund APHIS, we know that Congress is unable to provide this level of funding at this time. However, AAC calls upon Congress to restore some funding lost over the past few years and to stand firm against any further cuts to APHIS. The President’s FY 2013 budget request calls for a $54 million reduction from FY 2012. If Congress were to enact the President’s request, or if Congress cuts the Agency’s budget even deeper, APHIS will have suffered at least a $140 million (-16%) reduction in the last three fiscal years. If these cuts are adopted Congress and the President will be responsible for wreaking irrevocable damage to valuable APHIS programs and causing a deterioration of essential services to meet the nation’s needs.

Already APHIS’ Animal Health Programs have suffered a $42 million cut in the last two fiscal years – a $30 million reduction in FY 2011 and another $12 million cut in FY 2012. This must be reversed and funding must be restored for this core function. As a result of budget cuts disease surveillance funding has been reduced which undermines a core function of APHIS, namely issuing permits and inspections. AAC strongly opposes cuts for disease surveillance as this places the fundamental mission of protecting animal health in jeopardy. APHIS has shifted its policy on foreign animal diseases from “stamping out” under the OIE guidelines to one of vaccination. This would suggest the need to increase funds for emergency preparedness rather than reducing funding for this activity. APHIS’ International Services are critical to our country’s continued success in trade and the ability to gain broader market access. Cutting
funds for this activity is unjustified. APHIS has eliminated and reduced managerial, administrative and support positions and will close 15 offices domestically in 11 States and 5 international offices in 5 different countries by the end of 2012. APHIS is surveying its customers to determine the most appropriate changes to make: which services should and can be ended; and which can be reduced while attempting to maximize program delivery.

APHIS is an essential federal agency for each AAC member. APHIS is responsible for protecting animal health, animal welfare, and plant health in the U.S. by offering protection from invasive non-native animals, plants, insects, and diseases; monitoring and management of existing agricultural pests and diseases; management of trade issues related to animal or plant health; and prevention or cessation of the inhumane treatment of animals. In recognition of the central role that APHIS plays in U.S. agriculture and to thwart plant and animal diseases that caused market disruptions, Congress increased the agency’s budget between 2001 and 2010, from $445 million to $900 million. Since then Congress has made deep cuts.

AAC notes that APHIS has proposed to aggregate disease programs into “commodity health groups” as opposed to requesting funds for specific disease control or eradication programs. This plan could be beneficial and provide greater flexibility by allowing APHIS to proactively address emergency diseases and other animal health issues in a more timely and efficient manner rather than having to observe rigid “disease by disease” lines.

AAC supports APHIS’ proposal to segregate ovine, caprine, equine and cervids into separate line items put forth in the President’s FY 2013 budget proposal. AAC believes that maintaining the separate line items will result in greater clarity for stakeholders and achieve more transparency and accountability for each commodity group, especially since the species groups in question have very few diseases and health concerns in common. For these reasons, AAC strongly supports separating these species out and the sheep and goat species groups share the requested appropriation for scrapie eradication.

While AAC supports increased funding for the zoonotic disease program, any boost in spending must not come at the expense of traditional animal health activities. If limited resources are being diverted from traditional animal health activities then AAC urges APHIS to first restore funding to the traditional animal health activities.

**AAC Recommendations for selected APHIS Administered Programs**

**APHIS Veterinary Services (VS)**

AAC request: $345 million, returning to the funding level in FY2010  
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $278.7 million

**Justification:** Veterinary Services (VS) has wide-ranging responsibilities that include coordinating national animal health emergency preparedness and management; ensuring the safe import of animals, animal products, and biologics; diagnosing foreign and domestic animal diseases; monitoring the health and disease status of U.S. livestock and poultry; certifying animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics for export; developing, implementing and enforcing standards to ensure safe and effective animal vaccines; delivering scientific and economic information, policy advice, risk assessment and other data to address challenges faced by animal producers and stakeholders; certifying quality assurance methods used in animal production; directing national programs to eradicate selected animal diseases; managing key activities in a national network of laboratories to perform day-to-day testing and provide emergency response capability; and partnering with state stakeholders, industry customers, veterinary and agricultural institutions, and extension services to protect animal health.

Among the many important functions carried out by VS are the National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) and Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH). NAHEMS
deals with animal health incidents in the U.S., such as the incursion of a foreign animal disease or a natural disaster, and it encompasses prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. NAHEMS develops strategies and policies to assist in effective incident management and coordination of incident responses in compliance with national and international standards. CEAH analyzes animal health data and related agricultural issues to facilitate informed decision-making. The Center partners with the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and its member countries to improve international disease surveillance capabilities and analytic methods supporting trade decisions. CEAH is comprised of four Centers. While each Center has a specific focus, all four share resources with similar areas of expertise that combines to meet the needs of VS and APHIS. CEAH is also the OIE Collaborating Center for Animal Disease Information Systems and Risk Analysis. As an OIE collaborator, CEAH helps build, maintain, and promote internationally accepted, science-based methods for risk analysis and animal disease surveillance.

**Animal Disease Traceability Program (ADTP)**

**AAC request:** $14 million  
**President’s FY2013 Budget Request:** $14 million

**Justification:** The Animal Disease Traceability Program receives a boost in funding under the President’s FY 2013 proposal, about $6 million, to buy eartags and help states implement the new voluntary program. AAC supports the increase and urges APHIS to implement the final rule on traceability. Even if the President’s increase is approved, the traceability program is substantially less than it was just a few years ago.

The funding increase of about $6 million for ADTP will help states implement the new voluntary program that allows for quick and accurate trace-back across state borders in an animal disease emergency. The primary goal of an animal disease traceability system is to provide information on the source of infection so that preventive and control measures can be applied to avoid the spread of the disease. Animal disease traceability does not prevent disease. But knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are located is indispensable during an emergency response and for ongoing disease programs. Traceability helps to reduce the number of animal deaths and preserve animal health when outbreaks occur in certain parts of the country. A traceability system can limit the number of animal owners impacted by an outbreak and reduce the economic strain on owners and affected communities as well as protect human health. APHIS needs $3 million per year to dispense and process identification devices to States and Tribes, allocate location identifiers, and manage the animal disease traceability information systems between States. The program will need to be implemented through outreach and field activities, which will cost over $10 million per year. Over $2 million per year is needed for program administration.

Animal identification and traceability has received increased attention in the U.S. Recent animal disease outbreaks around the world have underscored the importance of animal identification and the need to track disease affected and exposed livestock back to the source of the disease exposure. These incidents have led to a heightened awareness of the risks posed to our domestic livestock populations by the accidental or malicious introduction of a foreign disease or the emergence of a domestic disease of concern. Some animal diseases also present a threat to public health, furthering the urgency to maintain animal health control. A significant animal disease outbreak could affect both our social and economic health and stability. The potential disruption that a large-scale disease occurrence could cause would extend beyond the suffering and loss to animal life.
Equine and Cervid Health
AAC request: $9 million
President's FY2013 Budget Request: $4 million
2012 Farm Bill Request: AAC urges Congress to authorize an Equine Disease Program.

Justification: Currently, there is inefficient funding to ensure USDA has the necessary resources to deal with the notable increases in major equine disease outbreaks, such as equine piroplasmosis (EP), contagious equine metritis (CEM), and equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHV-1). These outbreaks put U.S. horses and industry at considerable risk, particularly if these disease outbreaks and incidents continue to intensify in frequency and magnitude. Inclusion of this requested funding in the USDA-APHIS appropriation will mitigate this risk.

The purpose of this appropriation is to allow USDA-APHIS to deal with any outbreaks of equine infectious diseases, including their prevention, diagnosis, and containment. There has never been a specific appropriation for this purpose for USDA-APHIS and it is critically needed now to protect the welfare of domestic horses and the economic viability of the $102 billion U.S. horse industry.

Horses are unique among livestock when it comes to transport. The U.S. horse industry involves activities in all regions of the country and the world. One of the cornerstones of the industry is the ability to move horses frequently and easily interstate and internationally. Horses move constantly for breeding, sale, racing, showing, work or recreation. Domestic and foreign horses are exported and imported, permanently and temporarily, to and from many countries. There is a large foreign market for U.S. horses. The emergence of a contagious equine disease can restrict or halt that movement. Any loss or restriction of this mobility has a serious impact on the economic viability of the domestic horse industry.

Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB)
AAC request: $16.5 million
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $15.76 million

Justification: CVB provides cost-effective benefits for animal health and food safety. CVB plays a vital role in regulating products that diagnose, prevent or treat animal diseases. The Center uses scientific information and regulatory processes to assure its customers that the veterinary biological products available for use are of high quality. The Veterinary Biologics Program implements the provisions of the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act to assure that pure, safe, potent and effective veterinary biologics are available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases.

Every year, U.S. animal health companies produce 85.5 billion doses of animal vaccines. These vaccines are critical to protecting the health of America’s flocks, herds, and pets from domestic and foreign animal diseases. In addition to improving animal health, these technologies could lead to similar breakthroughs in products for humans. Animal health companies are also developing new and innovative biologics to greatly reduce the presence of food-borne pathogens in production animals, resulting in less pressure on pathogen reduction programs during processing. These new products represent a significant step forward in on-farm contributions to food safety.

The President proposes just $15.76 million for CVB and has requested $7 million in industry paid user fees in FY 2013. AAC strongly opposes any enactment of user fees for biologics since CVB has not negotiated user fees with industry nor indicated how funds would be allocated. Furthermore, CVB’s budget was already cut by over $850,000 in FY 2012. An additional reduction of almost $700,000 would take the CVB to the FY 2006 funding levels.
Scrapie Eradication  
AAC request: $29 million  
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $15.9 million  

Justification: Scrapie, a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE), is a fatal, degenerative, infectious disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. The industry loss due to classical scrapie is estimated to be about $20 million annually, not including lost market opportunities from resulting export restrictions. Through multi-year efforts by USDA/APHIS with industry and state regulatory partners, the U.S. is in the position to eradicate scrapie. Appropriations of recent years have been inadequate for successful eradication in a timely manner. To complete scrapie eradication increased funding is required for diagnostic support, surveillance, and enforcement of compliance activities that are dedicated to scrapie eradication as an animal health priority. AAC believes that funding the scrapie eradication program at $29 million will help provide for an achievable eradication program and, ultimately, a scrapie-free status for the U.S.

Wildlife Services (WS)  
AAC request: $97.839 million (including $28 million for Oral Rabies Vaccination), returning to FY2010 funding level,  
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $84.463 million  

Justification: APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) protects agriculture from detrimental animal predators through identification, demonstration, and application of the most appropriate methods of control. WS provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts. WS conducts research and field activities through its Regional and State Offices, the National Wildlife Research Center and its Field Stations. WS develops methods to resolve conflicts between humans and wildlife. The agency conducts wildlife management programs such as livestock protection, migratory bird damage to crops, invasive species damage, property damage, and threatened and endangered species protection. Human health and safety activities include the Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program which continues to control this disease. ORV programs are critical to decreasing the spread of rabies. Rabies is one of the oldest known viral diseases, but it continues to be a public health challenge. Over the past 30 years, rabies management has grown in complexity in the U.S. since wild animals have become the primary reservoir for the disease. According to the CDC, the estimated public cost associated with disease detection, prevention and control exceed $300 million annually.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Discretionary  
AAC FY2013 Recommendation: $1,102,565,000  
President’s FY2013 Request: $1,102,565,000  
Enacted FY2012: $1,094,600,000

While the AAC supports the small increase the President has proposed for the ARS in FY 2013, $1,102,565,000, we remain deeply concerned that ARS funding has not kept pace with inflation. This is a 0.7% increase of $7,918,000 -- we would hope that Congress would find a way to enhance ARS funding.

The budget request for ARS includes $72.7 million for new and expanded research initiatives in livestock production and protection, food safety, human nutrition, crop production and protection, environmental stewardship, and library and information services. In particular, AAC supports ARS increases to enhance livestock production in the U.S. We are eager for ARS advances that will safeguard and utilize animal genetic resources, associated genetic and genomic databases, and bioinformatic tools; develop a basic understanding of the physiology of livestock and poultry; and develop information, tools, and technologies that can be used to improve animal production systems. ARS research is heavily focused on the development and application of genomics technologies to increase the efficiency and product quality of beef, dairy, swine, poultry, aquaculture, and sheep systems. Areas of emphasis include increasing
efficiency of nutrient utilization, increasing animal well-being and reducing stress in production systems, increasing reproductive rates and breeding animal longevity, developing and evaluating non-traditional production systems (e.g., organic and natural), and evaluating and conserving animal genetic resources. Additionally, AAC is eager for ARS to advance science in new and alternative post-harvest food processing technologies, antimicrobial resistance and alternatives to antibiotics; the development and evaluation of intervention strategies against foodborne pathogens and their effects on resistance; and the development and evaluation of novel products in food animals.

National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Discretionary

AAC FY2013 Recommendation: $1,359,000,000
President’s FY2013 Request: $1,275,670,000
Enacted FY2012: $1,358,500,000

AAC urges Congress to maintain funding for USDA’s suite of extramural programs administered by NIFA including formula funds, the Economic Research Service, the National Agriculture Statistics Services and agricultural research programs. NIFA programs are important to the economic competitiveness and viability of the animal agriculture sector. AAC supports increased funding for the intramural and extramural research programs; at the same time we encourage greater complimentary, mission-driven research of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) with NIFA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) programs and other NIFA initiatives. Stable and robust funding is required to support research, extension, and education efforts. Funding supports new technologies that maintain competitiveness and improve animal performance and efficiency, reduce the impact of animal agriculture on the environment, and help safeguard the nation’s food producing industry. NIFA helps to address the research needs of the collective animal agriculture industry.

AAC Recommendations for selected NIFA Administered Programs

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

AAC request: $325 million
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $325 million
2012 Farm Bill Request: Reauthorize AFRI at $700 million and compel USDA to prioritize research on animal health, livestock production, and animal products.

Justification: While AAC supports $325 million (and $700 million as soon as is practicable) for AFRI, these increases must not come at the expense of other NIFA programs. Growth in this account is warranted because demand for AFRI is high and many grants involve multi-year commitments. Increases are necessary to allow the flexibility to fund new projects and address emerging issues.

AAC urges Congress to compel AFRI give higher priority to animal health, livestock production, and animal products research. The 2008 Farm Bill outlined six priority areas for AFRI grants: 1) animal health and production and animal products; 2) food safety, nutrition and health; 3) plant health and production and plant products; 4) renewable energy, natural resources and environment; 5) agriculture systems and technology; and 6) agriculture economics and rural communities. USDA ignored the six priority areas for AFRI and instead established five core areas for special emphasis: 1) climate change, 2) bioenergy, 3) childhood obesity, 4) world hunger, and 5) food safety.
AAC has compiled a non-exhaustive list of research priorities that AFRI and/or ARS ought to devote resources in the areas of animal health, livestock production, and animal products research:

- **Brucellosis** research to improve detection systems, vaccines, vaccine delivery systems, and disease management strategies. Research needed in this area includes:
  - More sensitive and specific diagnostic tests for *Brucella abortus*, as well as other *Brucella* species;
  - *Brucella abortus* vaccines. RB51 vaccine is only about 60-70% efficacious in cattle; it is less so in bison and not effective at all in elk. The old strain 19 vaccine is possibly 20-25% effective in elk when delivered by the bio-bullet method;
  - Delivery methods for *Brucella* vaccines in wildlife. Possibilities include oral delivery, aerosol delivery, and injection delivery methods;
  - Antimicrobial treatment, such as tetracycline feed additive and Rifampin treatments, for *Brucella abortus* and other *Brucella* species. Delivery mechanisms for treatments in wildlife are also needed;
  - Genomic and genetic studies to determine genetic resistance to *Brucella abortus* in cattle and wildlife; and
  - Development of ways to protect against abortion from the organism in both cattle and wildlife.

- **Johnes’s Disease** research to improve diagnostic tests, management practices, vaccine, and herd and flock control programs;

- **Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies** research to develop new rapid diagnostic tests, control measures, and cleaning and disinfection procedures, and to investigate the zoonotic potential of TSEs;

- **Tuberculosis** research to intensify and complete tuberculosis eradication in cattle throughout the U.S. Research is needed to develop improved diagnostic tests and vaccines. The current caudal fold test for reaction to tuberculin is both subjective and difficult to perform. The Gamma Interferon test has drawbacks and cannot be used for every testing situation. A sensitive and specific test is needed for *Mycobacterium bovis*; a test that would eliminate the subjectivity and inaccuracies related with the caudal fold test;

- **Efficiency of production** research through the use of new technologies that address the global need and demand for more animal protein. Technologies include genetics, husbandry, processing, food storage, and producing more output of high-quality animal protein with fewer inputs of feed and energy. New production technologies are necessary to feed a growing world population that is estimated to reach 9 billion by 2050;

- **Animal Welfare** research to develop a credible system of quantitative, scientific measurements to assess animal well-being through evaluation of behavior and/or measurement of biomarkers;

- **Environmental** research to develop innovative and efficacious animal waste management systems and procedures to minimize the impact of animal agriculture on environmental resources;

- **Diagnostics Technology** research to develop handheld diagnostics capable of detecting multiple pathogens in major livestock species, including systems to detect emerging infectious and parasitic pathogens; and

- **Technology** research to develop a scientific knowledge base regarding judicious antimicrobial use and prediction of antimicrobial resistance from their use in animal agriculture.
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

AAC request: $4.79 million
President's FY2013 Budget Request: $4.79 million
2012 Farm Bill Request: Reauthorize VMLRP with no changes.

Justification: Continued funding will permit the USDA to select veterinarians who will agree to practice food supply medicine and veterinary public health in federally-designated veterinary shortage situations. Veterinarians selected for VMLRP provide routine and emergency veterinary services, including those required for interstate movement of livestock. Congress authorized VMLRP in 2003 and appropriated funds each fiscal year beginning in 2006. Currently 132 veterinarians are under VMLRP contracts to practice food supply medicine and veterinary public health in areas federally designated as having a need for veterinary services.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

AAC request for FADI baseline funding: $9.98 million to support both NAHLN and the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN)

AAC request for APHIS allocation for NAHLN: $6.747 million, return to FY2010 level

President's FY2013 Budget Request for FADI: $5.98 million

Agency/Account: USDA-NIFA Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI) in addition to APHIS-Veterinary Services allocation from Veterinary Diagnostics, Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance Programs, and the specific disease lines, CWD, BSE and Scrapie.

2012 Farm Bill Request: Authorize the NAHLN at $30 million.

Appropriations History: NAHLN’s baseline funding of $4.4 million comes from FADI. Congress has appropriated about $9.8 million for FADI which supports both NAHLN and NPDN. In FY2011 the baseline was reduced by 39% to $2.684 million. APHIS’ allocation totals about $6.7 million ($2 million for direct support of NAHLN labs, $1.24 million for program support of NAHLN operations and remainder for fee-for-service surveillance testing).

Justification: NAHLN was developed in response to the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 and the Homeland Security Presidential Director-9 (HSPD-9) of 2004. The nation needs to protect its agriculture industry, food supply and public health. NAHLN’s mission is surveillance, rapid detection, response and recovery from any foreign animal diseases or emerging diseases which threaten the nation’s food supply and public health. NAHLN is part of a national plan to support, coordinate, and maintain formal lines of communication among existing state veterinary diagnostic laboratories and governmental agencies that provide a coordinated network for rapid recognition, identification, and response to routine and/or emerging diseases and emergencies. NAHLN is a cooperative effort between APHIS and NIFA and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. NAHLN’s infrastructure is critical in responding to disease outbreaks and animal health emergencies that can devastate our nation’s food supply and/or public health. The state of readiness and surge capacity of state and university diagnostic labs is highly dependent on federal funding to provide this national level of surveillance and response.

Federal funding of the NAHLN is grossly insufficient and inappropriate in light of the enormous losses associated with response to and recovery from a serious animal disease event. Without NAHLN’s early disease detection an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease could cost the US agriculture industry an estimated $100 billion. The Economic Research Service estimates the value of the U.S. beef industry at $74 billion with $3.8 billion in exports, and the U.S. poultry broiler industry at $45 billion with $3.1 billion in exports. The baseline funding for NAHLN at just $4.4 million represents a mere 0.004% federal investment for disease surveillance to protect these essential agriculture animal food industries.
Animal Health and Disease Research/1433 Formula Funds (AHDR)

Appropriations bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

AAC request: $4 million
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $0

2012 Farm Bill request: Reauthorize AHDR with no changes.

Justification: 1433 Formula funds are used for the general maintenance of research infrastructure, which allows more rapid response in the event of disease outbreaks. In addition to the infrastructure these funds support, a significant population of faculty, staff, and students rely on grants from intramural distribution of formula funding. Extramural competitive grants exclude projects that are vital but less popular, less profitable, or associated with lesser known researchers. Overall, the reduction in 1433 funds simply undermines the ability of land grant institutions to competitively recruit science teachers and students. Congress has traditionally provided an average of about $4.3 million annually until FY10 when funding was reduced to just $2.95 million. President Obama has eliminated the funding for FY 2013. In existence since 1977, AHDR is a valuable source of funds for fundamental research on diseases of food producing animals. These funds are the most important funds for most of the Veterinary Science Departments in the U.S. In addition, some of the states with veterinary medical colleges have in the past provided some monies for faculty wishing to conduct food animal related research on local and emerging diseases; however these funds have been essentially eliminated in many of the states. There are no other funds available at this time to provide this much needed support.

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD)

AAC request: $2.5 million
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $0

2012 Farm Bill request: Reauthorize FARAD with no changes.

Justification: FARAD is an integrated extension and applied research program that provides required, scientifically-valid information on how to avoid drug, environmental and pesticide contaminant residues in food animals, thus helping to avert food safety crises. FARAD has an authorization at $2.5 million in the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-234). FARAD is used when food-producing animals are mistakenly exposed to environmental contaminants (pesticides, biotoxins, radionuclides, gas fracturing water). During times of both small and large scale disasters (i.e., hurricanes, tsunamis, fires, oil spills, and nuclear incidents) the value and indispensability of FARAD is clearly evident.

FARAD is also the primary source of information for veterinarians to comply with PL 103-396, Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA), authorized in 1994. AMDUCA permits veterinarians to prescribe drugs in an extra-label manner to treat conditions for which there are no effective approved drugs. Veterinarians use drugs approved for both animals and humans to address animal health and welfare and to enhance public safety. AMDUCA requires a scientifically-derived withdrawal period for drugs used in an extra-label manner; FARAD provides the scientific basis for determining this required appropriate withdrawal period. And it is not economically viable for pharmaceutical companies to pursue a drug label claim for minor species. FARAD is the only source for food safety and drug withdrawal information for veterinarians treating minor species (lamb, sheep, goats, reindeer, elk, ducks, pheasant, quail, rabbits, salmon, cod, catfish, tilapia, trout, whitefish, grouper, lobster, shrimp, oysters, and honeybees).
Minor Use Animal Drug Program (MUADP)
AAC request: $1 million
President’s Previous Budget Requests: FY11 $429,000, FY2012 $0 and FY2013 $0
2012 Farm Bill Request: Authorize MUADP at $1 million or such sums as are necessary.

Justification: MUADP helps ensure that producers and veterinarians have necessary remedies to stimulate the small farm economy; protect human food safety and security; increase the diversity of our agricultural base to include important specialty species; prevent and control zoonotic diseases; ensure health while reducing pain and suffering in important species; and avoid contamination of our foods with drug residues. MUADP identifies animal drug needs for minor species, listed in the previous section, and minor uses in major species. MUADP generates and disseminates data for safe and effective therapeutic applications and facilitates FDA approval for drugs identified as a priority for a minor species or a minor use. MUADP makes pharmaceutical products available to producers, which in turn allows producers to remain competitive in the marketplace. Without the MUADP American producers of minor species would not have safe and effective products to keep their livestock healthy.

The President included $429,000 in his FY 2011 and FY 2012 budgets but did not include funding in FY2013. MUADP funding has fluctuated from a high of $611,000 in FY94 to a low of $0 in FY2007 and FY2008. Since 1982, Congress has only appropriated a total of $11.2 million for the program. Despite the small amount of funding, MUADP has been responsible for generating 36 Public Master File (PMF) which has supported FDA approval for 42 drugs for use in minor food species or for minor uses in major species.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Discretionary
AAC FY2013 Recommendation: $1,004,427,000
President’s FY2013 Request: $995,503,000
Enacted FY2012: $1,004,427,000

The continued safety of food is crucial to consumers, as well as the animal agriculture sector. It is imperative that Congress provide both steady and adequate federal funding for the government’s food and feed safety and protection functions presently administered through FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

AAC believes that both FSIS and FDA, which have food safety responsibilities, lack the resources needed to reasonably establish safety, especially for FDA inspections of food imported from other countries. AAC recommends adequate funding for food protection at both FSIS and FDA. Furthermore, AAC recommends that funding be directed to the following priorities:

- Increased education and training of inspection personnel;
- Additional science-based inspection, targeted according to risk;
- Effective inspection of imported food and feed products;
- Research and development of scientifically based rapid testing procedures and tools;
- Accurate and timely responses to outbreaks that identify contaminated products, rapidly removing them from the market and minimizing disruption to producers; and
- Indemnification for producers who suffer marketing losses due to inaccurate government-advised recalls or warnings.
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
AAC FY2013 Recommendation: $183,899,000
President’s FY2013 Request: $183,899,000
Enacted FY2012: $166,365,000
(includes field resources)

Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
AAC FY2013 Recommendation: $1,083,939,000
President’s FY2013 Request: $1,083,939,000
Enacted FY2012: $882,747,000

Federal R&D funding for food safety exists within the USDA and HHS budgets, specifically the FDA. Related FDA research includes development of rapid detection and confirmatory methods, as well as investigations in biotechnology, virology, in vitro testing, and lab enhancement. FDA’s Transforming Food Safety Initiative requested an increase of $253 million over FY 2012 to continue to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to build a modern food safety system that can work more effectively to prevent food safety problems while leveraging the FDA’s state and local food safety partners. Implementing FSMA will require FDA to prioritize implementation, likely establishing the preventive controls regulations and import safety programs, and do more with less to move from legislation to regulations. There are two primary Centers at FDA involved in food safety, the CVM and CFSAN.

CVM fosters public and animal health by approving safe and effective products for animals. CVM’s research program conducts applied and basic research in support of current and evolving FDA regulatory issues. Regulatory research supporting premarket and medical product safety validates the safety and efficacy of animal-derived food and animal health products to ensure approved products are safe to eat for humans and animals. Development of analytical methods and evaluation of screening tests for detection of drug residues in imported and domestic food products supports the CVM’s compliance program. The continued funding of the science-based review of new animal drugs is vital to maintaining the health and production of our animal industries. An attempt to short-circuit the review process with funding blocks degrades our review process in the eyes of the world.

CFSAN conducts food, cosmetic, and color additive safety research. The intramural program consists of research efforts in chemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, food science, toxicology, immunology, social sciences, education, and risk assessment. External research centers include the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, National Center for Food Safety and Technology, and Western Institute for Food Safety and Security.

Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA)
AAC request: $30.530 million
President’s FY2013 Budget Request: $30.530 million
Agency/Account: Food and Drug Administration (FDA) / Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)

Justification: ADUFA established a system of performance standards and user fees to improve the new animal drug review process at FDA-CVM. Predictability of the review process has improved as the Center has met the agreed-upon performance standards. The $30.530 million budget includes $24.244 million that was authorized under ADUFA and a final year adjustment of $6.286 million. The industry is currently in negotiations with the FDA and fully expects it to be reauthorized in 2013. AAC requests that the fees be integrated into the FY 2013 appropriations bill. The appropriation is entirely budget-neutral as the money will be provided by the animal health companies.

ADUFA was signed into law in 2003, amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize FDA to collect user fees from new animal drug sponsors. The goal of ADUFA is to better serve animal health and public health by providing additional funds to augment FDA resources. Under ADUFA, FDA
agreed to pursue a comprehensive set of review performance goals to improve the timeliness and predictability of the review of new animal drug applications and investigational new animal drugs submissions. ADUFA is similar to the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) program for human drugs. The expectation is that ADUFA, like PDUFA, will continue to help FDA expedite and improve its review of applications for new animal drugs so that safe and effective new products will be available more quickly.

**Part IV: AAC mission, vision, objectives, member organizations**

**AAC’s mission** is to support animal agriculture research, education, extension and biosecurity needs by passing appropriate federal funding and legislation, as well as reviewing pertinent regulatory proposals and rulemaking. AAC speaks as one voice for all of U.S. animal agriculture. We speak solely on behalf of U.S. animal agriculture stakeholders, including those associated with aquaculture, beef, dairy, goats, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and minor food or fiber-producing species.

**AAC’s vision** is to ensure the long term ability for U.S. animal agriculture to provide consumers around the world safe, wholesome, affordable food produced in a sustainable manner (profitable, environmentally sound, and protective of animal health and well-being).

**AAC’s objectives** are to bring all national organizations representing animal agriculture together in the U.S. to coordinate major efforts to secure appropriate federal funding which will support the mission and vision of AAC; to coordinate communication between various other animal agriculture coalitions with other specific missions and objectives and to offer support when called upon to reinforce the efforts of the Animal Agriculture Alliance, Coalition for Animal Health, Farm Animal Welfare Coalition and others; and to coordinate animal agriculture review of OIE standards and processes so U.S. animal agriculture is properly represented in all relevant international animal related policy and standards setting programs, including CODEX.

**AAC’s membership** is currently comprised of most major U.S. animal and animal related commodity organizations in America. AAC membership comprises over 30 national animal agriculture producer and allied animal agriculture industry organizations, including veterinary medicine and academic organizations that represent various livestock species sectors or animal agriculture interests in the U.S.

**AAC Member Organizations**

**Commodity Organizations**

**American Horse Council** represents all segments of the equine industry, works to promote and protect the equine industry by representing its interests in Congress and in federal regulatory agencies on national issues of importance; to unify the equine industry by informing industry members of regulations and pending legislation, and by serving as a forum for all member organizations and individuals; and to advise and inform government and the industry itself of the equine industry’s important role in the U.S. economy. **Contact:** Dudley Hoskins, Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs, 202/296-4031 ext. 201, dhoskins@horsecouncil.org, http://www.horsecouncil.org/

**American Meat Institute** is the nation’s oldest and largest meat and poultry trade association. AMI is dedicated to increasing the efficiency, profitability and safety of meat and poultry trade worldwide. AMI represents the interests of packers and processors of beef, pork, lamb, veal and turkey products and their suppliers throughout North America. Together, AMI’s members produce 95% of the beef, pork, lamb and veal products and 70% of the turkey products in the U.S. AMI provides legislative, regulatory, public relations, technical, scientific and educational services to the industry. Its affiliate, the AMI Foundation, is a separate 501(c)3 organization that conducts research, education and information projects for the industry. **Contact:** Brandon Beshears, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, 202/587-4200, bbeshears@meatami.com, http://www.meatami.com/

**American Rabbit Breeders Association** with membership over 24,000 in the U.S. and Canada is dedicated to the promotion, development and improvement of the domestic rabbit and cavy. **Contact:** Eric Stewart, Executive Director, 309/664-7500, Eric@arba.net, http://www.arba.net/

**American Sheep Industry Association** is the national organization representing the interests of more than 82,000 sheep producers located throughout the U.S. From East to West, farm flocks to range operations, ASI works to
represent the interests of all producers. ASI is a federation of 45 state sheep associations as well as individual members. Contact: Paul Rodgers, Deputy Director of Policy, 304/647-9981, prodgers2@earthlink.net, or Dustin Bryant dustinbryant@meyersandassociates.com, http://www.sheepusa.org/Home

American Veal Association. There are six primary vealing producing states (Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin). Veal farmers purchase surplus dairy calves, primarily male Holstein calves. A typical farm has 250 calves. Special-fed veal represents a $650-$700 million industry. The special-fed veal industry contributes $250 million to the dairy industry through purchases of dairy by-products and calves. Contact: Dale Bakke, President, 920/261-7000, info@realveal.com, http://www.vealfarm.com/index.asp

Catfish Farmers of America. U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish are some of the healthiest and safest fish in the world. They are raised in ponds filled with pure fresh water pumped from underground wells and are fed a gourmet diet of puffed, high-protein food pellets, made of a mixture of soybeans, corn, wheat, vitamins, and minerals. Contact: Butch Wilson, President, http://www.uscatfish.com/index.html and http://www.safecatfish.com

Holstein Association USA, Inc. is the largest dairy breed organization in the world and is dedicated to the development of the Holstein breed. Holstein cattle dominate the U.S. dairy industry due to unexcelled production, greater income over feed costs, unequaled genetic merit and their adaptability to a wide range of environmental conditions. Holstein Association USA maintains the records for all ancestry, identity, ownership and performance information on more than 22 million registered Holstein cattle. Producers who use Association programs and services find they can make accurate breeding and management decisions, set goals for their herd, evaluate management practices, determine market value of breeding stock, and predict performance and profitability of animals not yet born. Contact: John Meyer, CEO, 800/952-5200, jmeyer@holstein.com, http://www.holsteinusa.com/

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association represents all segments of the beef industry and works to increase profit opportunities for cattle and beef producers by enhancing the business climate and building consumer demand. NCBA has joint operating agreements with its primary industry partners -- the Beef Promotion and Research Board, the American National Cattle Women and the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Contact: Colin Woodall, VP of Government Affairs, 202/347-0228, cwoodall@beef.org, http://www.beefusa.org/

National Chicken Council is the national, non-profit trade association representing the U.S. chicken industry. NCC is a full-service trade association that promotes and protects the interests of the chicken industry and is the industry’s voice before Congress and federal agencies. NCC member companies include chicken processor/processors, poultry distributors, and allied industry firms. The producer/processors account for approximately 95% of the chickens produced in the U.S. Contact: Mary Colville, Director of Government Relations, 202/296-2622, mcolville@chickencouncil.org, http://www.nationalchickencouncil.com/

National Milk Producers Federation develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF’s 31 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 40,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. Contact: Dana Brooks, SVP, Government Relations, 703/243-6111, DBrooks@nmpf.org, http://www.nmpf.org/

National Pork Producers Council conducts public-policy outreach on behalf of its 43 affiliated state associations, enhancing opportunities for the success of U.S. pork producers and other industry stakeholders by establishing the U.S. pork industry as a consistent and responsible supplier of high-quality pork to the domestic and world markets. NPPC’s mission is to fight for reasonable legislation and regulations, develop revenue and market opportunities and protect the livelihoods of America’s 67,000 pork producers. Public-policy issues on which it focuses are in the areas of agriculture and industry, animal health and food safety, environment and energy and international trade. Contact: Liz Wagstrom, Chief Veterinarian, 202/347-3600, wagstromL@nppc.org, http://www.nppc.org/

National Turkey Federation is the national advocate for all segments of the turkey industry, providing services and conducting activities which increase demand for its members’ products by protecting and enhancing their ability to profitably provide wholesome, high-quality, nutritious products. Contact: Damon Wells, VP of Government Affairs, 202/898-0100, dwells@turkeyfed.org, http://www.eatturkey.com/about.html

North American Elk Breeders Association promotes and protects the elk farming and ranching industry. NAEBA’s primary goal is to educate its members and the public about the rewards and opportunities available through participation in the industry as a diversified agricultural pursuit. NAEBA is the recognized voice of the elk industry and maintains a purebred elk registry. Contact: Brian Wagner, President, 402/756-3355, blackvelvetelk@worldnet.att.net, http://www.naelp.org/

R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America represents U.S. cattle producers on domestic and international trade and marketing issues. R-CALF USA is dedicated to ensuring the continued profitability and viability of the U.S. cattle
industry. R-CALF USA’s membership consists primarily of cow-calf operators, cattle backgrounders, and feedlot owners. Its members are located in 47 states, and the organization has many local and state association affiliates, from both cattle and farm organizations. **Contact:** Bill Bullard, CEO, 406/252-2516, billbullard@r-calfusa.com, http://www.r-calfusa.com/Default.htm

**United Egg Producers** is a Capper-Volstead cooperative of egg farmers from all across the U.S, and represents the ownership of approximately 95% of all the nation's egg-laying hens. Of the total farm members, 34 serve on the Board of Directors. UEP is an organization of "Leadership By Egg Farmers - For Egg Farmers". **Contact:** Gene Gregory, President & CEO, 770/360-9220, gene@unitedegg.com, http://www.unitedegg.org

**U.S. Poultry & Egg Producers Association** is the world's largest and most active poultry organization. We represent the entire industry as an "All Feather" association. Membership includes producers and processors of broilers, turkeys, ducks, eggs, and breeding stock, as well as allied companies. Formed in 1947, the association has affiliations in 27 states and member companies worldwide **Contact:** John Starkey, President, 770/493-9401, jstarkey@poultryegg.org, http://www.poultryegg.org/

**Other Member Organizations**

**Animal Agriculture Alliance** includes individuals, companies, and organizations who are interested in helping consumers better understand the role animal agriculture plays in providing a safe, abundant food supply to a hungry world. By speaking with a common voice, the Alliance will ensure consistent, accurate messages based on sound science are communicated to the general public. The Alliance educates consumers, teachers, and the media; serves as a resource for those who seek information about animal production; monitors emerging issues; mobilizes emergency response if a member requests assistance; promotes the development of animal care guidelines and third party verification programs that are consistent with the Alliance Animal Care Principles; and conducts media and crisis management workshops upon request. **Contact:** Kay Johnson Smith, President and CEO, 703/562-5160, kjohnson@animalagalliance.org, http://www.animalagalliance.org

**American Association of Avian Pathologists** assures prevention and elimination of suffering and loss of poultry due to disease and the provision of a safe poultry-associated food supply through providing an open exchange of scientific and practical information. Veterinary and non-veterinary researchers, public, private and industry veterinarians, technicians, poultry company owners, industries supporting poultry production representatives, and flock managers are provided cutting edge science concerning the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of poultry disease as well as food safety and animal welfare through national and regional scientific meetings, text books, manuals, and pamphlets developed and authored by the AAAP membership. **Contact:** Bob Bevans-Kerr, Executive Director, 904/425-5735, aaap@aaap.info, www.aaap.info

**American Association of Bovine Practitioners** is an international association of veterinarians organized to enhance the professional lives of its members through relevant continuing education that will improve the well-being of cattle and the economic success of their owners, increase awareness and promote leadership for issues critical to cattle industries, and improve opportunities for careers in bovine medicine. **Contact:** Gatz Riddell, EVP, 334/821-0442, mgiddell@aabp.org, http://www.aabp.org/

**American Association of Swine Veterinarians** aims to increase the knowledge of swine veterinarians by promoting the development and availability of the resources which enhance the effectiveness of professional activities; creating opportunities which inspire personal and professional growth; advocating science-based approaches to industry issues; encouraging personal and professional interaction; mentoring students, and encouraging life-long careers as swine veterinarians. **Contact:** Harry Snelson, Director of Communications, 515/465-5255, snelson@aasv.org, http://www.aasv.org/

**American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians** seeks to disseminate information relating to the diagnosis of animal diseases; coordinate diagnostic activities of regulatory, research and service laboratories; establish uniform diagnostic techniques; improve existing diagnostic techniques; develop new diagnostic techniques; establish accepted guidelines for the improvement of diagnostic laboratory organizations relative to personnel qualifications and facilities; and act as a consultant to the U.S. Animal Health Association on uniform diagnostic criteria involved in regulatory animal disease programs. **Contact:** Tim Baszler, President, 509/335-9696, baszler@vetmed.wsu.edu, http://www.aavlvd.org

**American Dairy Science Association** provides leadership in scientific and technical support to grow the global dairy industry through generation, dissemination, and exchange of information and services. **Contact:** Robert Roberts, President, Pennsylvania State University, 814/863-2959, rfr3@psu.edu, http://www.adsa.org/

**American Farm Bureau Federation** is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through its grassroots organization to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) provides leadership for and promotes excellence in academic veterinary medicine to prepare the veterinary workforce with the scientific knowledge and skills required to meet societal needs through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. AVMA pursues its mission to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. **Contact:** Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe, Executive Director, 217/621-4623, meghanwr@assochq.org

American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) believes that animals are essential to human life and well-being; care and use of animals should occur in a socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible manner. The highest standard of professional ethics must be applied; care and use of animals should be based on scientific knowledge; generation and application of new knowledge must be based on scientific inquiry; scientific knowledge should be communicated in an open and dynamic manner; science-based knowledge should be disseminated through teaching and outreach. Professional development of scientists, educators, and producers is essential to the expansion and communication of science concerning animals. **Contact:** Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe, Executive Director, 217/621-4623, meghanwr@assochq.org

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is the recognized leader on international industry developments. Members include more than 500 domestic and international companies and state, regional and national associations. Member-companies are livestock feed and pet food manufacturers, integrators, pharmaceutical companies, ingredient suppliers, equipment manufacturers and companies which supply other products, services and supplies to feed manufacturers. The feed industry makes a major contribution to food safety, nutrition and the environment, and it plays a critical role in the production of healthy, wholesome meat, milk, fish and eggs. More than 75% of the commercial feed in the U.S. is manufactured by AVMA members. **Contact:** Richard Sellers, VP of Feed Regulation & Nutrition, 703/524-0810, rsellers@afia.org

American Association of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologics (AAHVB) represents companies with an interest in animal health. Our members invest hundreds of millions of dollars on the innovations, research and science necessary for advances in pharmaceuticals, biologics, and pesticides for animals. AHI’s goals are to effectively advocate for our members and affiliates with government agencies, creating a stable regulatory environment based on sound science; serve as a reliable source for up-to-date factual information regarding important animal health topics and industry news; and promote and encourage continuing research and development in the area of animal health. **Contact:** Ron Phillips, VP, Legislative and Public Affairs, 202/637-2440, rphillips@ahi.org

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges provides leadership for and promotes excellence in academic veterinary medicine to prepare the veterinary workforce with the scientific knowledge and skills required to meet societal needs through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. AAVMC pursues its mission by providing leadership in: Advocating on behalf of academic veterinary medicine; Serving as a catalyst and convener on issues of importance to academic veterinary medicine; Providing information, knowledge and solutions to support members’ work; and Building global partnerships and coalitions to advance our collective goals. **Contact:** Brian Smith, Director Governmental Affairs, 202/371-9195, ext. 117 bsmithe@aavmc.org

Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies is an industry association which supports U.S. standards for licensing of veterinary biological products in domestic and international forums. Currently, AVBC is comprised of 35 member companies, including 21 active members, seven associate members and seven independent consultants. AVBC’s priorities are to support and promote the USDA 9 CFR approach to veterinary biologics regulation and inspection; represent industry interests in any activity for the development of product manufacturing and testing standards; support adequate resources for APHIS programs to assure the quality of veterinary biologics and to minimize the impact of animal diseases; collaborate with USDA, livestock owners, and veterinarians to rationalize product labeling requirements, adverse incident reporting, and other current regulatory issues; coordinate industry participation in the efficient implementation of homeland security measures; and to assure the continued flexibility of the regulatory program to foster innovation and specialty products, including autogenous biologicals. **Contact:** John Thomas, Counsel, 202/463-1260, jthomas@lltmlaw.com

American Farm Bureau Federation (FB) is the world’s largest organization devoted exclusively to representing the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the U.S. animal feed industry and its suppliers. AFIA is the recognized leader on international industry developments. Members include more than 500 domestic and international companies and state, regional and national associations. Member-companies are livestock feed and pet food manufacturers, integrators, pharmaceutical companies, ingredient suppliers, equipment manufacturers and companies which supply other products, services and supplies to feed manufacturers. The feed industry makes a major contribution to food safety, nutrition and the environment, and it plays a critical role in the production of healthy, wholesome meat, milk, fish and eggs. More than 75% of the commercial feed in the U.S. is manufactured by AFIA members. **Contact:** Richard Sellers, VP of Feed Regulation & Nutrition, 703/524-0810, rsellers@afia.org

Animal Health Institute (AHI) represents companies with an interest in animal health. Our members invest hundreds of millions of dollars on the innovations, research and science necessary for advances in pharmaceuticals, biologics, and pesticides for animals. AHI’s goals are to effectively advocate for our members and affiliates with government agencies, creating a stable regulatory environment based on sound science; serve as a reliable source for up-to-date factual information regarding important animal health topics and industry news; and promote and encourage continuing research and development in the area of animal health. **Contact:** Ron Phillips, VP, Legislative and Public Affairs, 202/637-2440, rphillips@ahi.org

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges provides leadership for and promotes excellence in academic veterinary medicine to prepare the veterinary workforce with the scientific knowledge and skills required to meet societal needs through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. AAVMC pursues its mission by providing leadership in: Advocating on behalf of academic veterinary medicine; Serving as a catalyst and convener on issues of importance to academic veterinary medicine; Providing information, knowledge and solutions to support members’ work; and Building global partnerships and coalitions to advance our collective goals. **Contact:** Brian Smith, Director Governmental Affairs, 202/371-9195, ext. 117 bsmithe@aavmc.org

Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies is an industry association which supports U.S. standards for licensing of veterinary biological products in domestic and international forums. Currently, AVBC is comprised of 35 member companies, including 21 active members, seven associate members and seven independent consultants. AVBC’s priorities are to support and promote the USDA 9 CFR approach to veterinary biologics regulation and inspection; represent industry interests in any activity for the development of product manufacturing and testing standards; support adequate resources for APHIS programs to assure the quality of veterinary biologics and to minimize the impact of animal diseases; collaborate with USDA, livestock owners, and veterinarians to rationalize product labeling requirements, adverse incident reporting, and other current regulatory issues; coordinate industry participation in the efficient implementation of homeland security measures; and to assure the continued flexibility of the regulatory program to foster innovation and specialty products, including autogenous biologicals. **Contact:** John Thomas, Counsel, 202/463-1260, jthomas@lltmlaw.com

American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) fosters the discovery, sharing and application of scientific knowledge concerning the responsible use of animals to enhance human life and well-being. ASAS believes that animals are essential to human life and well-being; care and use of animals should occur in a socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible manner. The highest standard of professional ethics must be applied; care and use of animals should be based on scientific knowledge; generation and application of new knowledge must be based on scientific inquiry; scientific knowledge should be communicated in an open and dynamic manner; science-based knowledge should be disseminated through teaching and outreach. Professional development of scientists, educators, and producers is essential to the expansion and communication of science concerning animals. **Contact:** Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe, Executive Director, 217/621-4623, meghanwr@assochq.org
Biotechnology Industry Organization is the world's largest biotechnology organization, providing advocacy, business development and communications services for more than 1,100 members worldwide. BIO members are involved in R&D of innovative healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. Corporate members range from entrepreneurial companies developing a first product to Fortune 500 multinationals. BIO also represents state and regional biotech associations, service providers to the industry, and academic centers. The mission of BIO is to be the champion of biotechnology and the advocate for its member organizations - both large and small. Contact: Dave Edwards, Director for Animal Biotechnology, 202/962-6697, dewards@bio.org, www.bio.org

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. The primary work of CAST is publication of task force reports, commentary papers, special publications, and issue papers written by scientists from many disciplines. CAST assembles, interprets, and communicates credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. CAST addresses issues of animal sciences, food sciences and agricultural technology, plant and soil sciences, and plant protection sciences with inputs from economists, social scientists, toxicologists or plant pathologists and entomologists, weed scientists, nematologists, and legal experts. Contact: John Bonner, EVP & CEO, 515/292-2125 ext. 25, jbonner@cast-science.org, http://www.cast-science.org/default.asp

Federation of Animal Science Societies provides services to over 10,000 professionals from animal agriculture. FASS goals are to provide a forum for the American Dairy Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science, and the Poultry Science Association to discuss issues and to coordinate strategies and plans of action to meet public needs and to benefit animal agriculture; to bring together scientists and educators in areas of animal agriculture as a means of facilitating the dissemination of scientific and technical information through publications and scientific meetings; to finance a Congressional Science Fellows Program; to identify annually an individual to work with Congress on key issues of interest to animal agriculture; to develop and implement a new process to identify and address research priorities in animal agriculture; to provide a unified voice in Washington, DC for influencing legislation and funding on behalf of animal agriculture; and to promote cooperation among all scientific societies that advance and support animal agriculture. Contact: Lowell Randel, Washington Representative, 202/406-0212, lowell@therandelgroup.com, http://www.fass.org/index.asp?autotry=true&ULnotkn=true

Livestock Exporters Association of the USA cooperates with APHIS/VS in developing import/export health and sanitary agreements with foreign countries; participate in import/export type seminars; provide industry input into resolving off-loading, quarantine and transit problems as the need arises, and other activities as agreed upon. The Association provides a forum to foster greater cooperation among competing firms when the common interest of all might be benefited; fosters the growth of technology in our business by providing a forum for the exchange of new information; works to eliminate unnecessary time, effort, and expense in making our products more competitive on the world market. Contact: Eff Embree, President, 309/663-5153, contact@livestockexporters-usa.com, http://www.livestockexporters-usa.com/

National Aquaculture Association unifies a diverse industry to serve three primary goals -- serve as "One Voice, One Industry" on national issues; to provide information on issues that impact the US aquaculture and to increase the demand for U.S. farm-raised seafood. NAA makes sure that accurate facts, science-based information, and the health benefits of U.S. farm-raised seafood are communicated to health professionals, educators, consumers, and the media. Contact: Betsy Hart, Executive Director, 803/730-3370, bhart@scrr.com, http://thenaa.net/

National Association of Federal Veterinarians strives to serve both veterinarians and the U.S. federal government agencies they work for by facilitating communication, consulting and suggesting management actions to improve program effectiveness, and working collaboratively to address issues of concern. As an advocate for veterinarians in federal service, NAFV emphasizes professionalism and expertise in federal service, while promoting continuing education, teamwork, and a standard of excellence. Contact: Mike Gilsdorf, EVP, 202/223-4878 mgilsdorf@nafv.org, http://www.nafv.net/

National Dairy Herd Improvement Association promotes accuracy, credibility, and uniformity of DHI records; represent the DHIA system on issues involving other National and International organizations; organize industry activities that benefit members of National DHIA. DHIA administers the Quality Certification Program and ensures that the Code of Ethics, Uniform Data Collection Procedures, and Quality Certification standards remain up-to-date and appropriate for industry needs. The Association coordinates the testing of new weighing and sampling devices and related new products; and cooperates with USDA, NAAB, and PDCA in providing the dairy industry with needed, meaningful, and affordable programs with minimal duplication. Contact: Jay Mattison, CEO, 608/848-6455, ext. 111, jmattison@requestltd.com, http://www.dhia.org/

National Farmers Union represents farmers and ranchers in all states, with organized divisions in 32 states. NFU believes that good opportunities in production agriculture are the foundation of strong farm and ranch families, and
strong farm and ranch families are the basis for thriving rural communities. Vibrant rural communities, in turn, are vital to the health, security and economic well-being of our entire national economy. NFU is focused on a broad range of issues affecting farm and ranch families including livestock, commodities, dairy, check-off programs, competitive practices, biotechnology, aquaculture, trade and tax issues, climate change, forestry, conservation, the environment, and energy, nutrition, and hunger, small business, organic and sustainable agriculture, health care, education, and consumer issues as well as Rural development, transportation, disaster relief programs, immigration, labor, and specialty crops issues. Contact: Chandler Goule, VP of Government Relations, 202/554-1600, cgoule@nfudc.org, http://www.nfu.org/

National Grain and Feed Association represents and provides services for grain, feed and related commercial businesses. Its activities focus on enhancing the growth and economic performance of U.S. agriculture. NGFA member firms consist of more than 1,000 companies comprising about 6,000 facilities. NGFA members handle more than 70% of all U.S. grains and oilseeds utilized in domestic and export markets and encompass all sectors of the industry. NGFA represents a balance of small and large companies, including both privately owned and cooperative firms. Contact: Randall Gordon, VP of Communications and Government Relations, 202/289-0873, RGordon@NGFA.org, http://www.ngfa.org/

National Institute for Animal Agriculture provides a forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages to animal agriculture professionals. NIAA is dedicated to programs that: work towards the eradication of diseases that pose a risk the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. Contact: Scott Stuart, Managing Director, 719/538-8843, scott.stuart@animalagriculture.org, http://www.animalagriculture.org/index.html

National Renderers Association speaks with a collective voice that represents the best interests of its members in public, government and regulatory affairs, and provides services, programs and technical support to the North American rendering industry: both in the national and international markets. Contact: David Meeker, VP, Scientific Services, 703/683-2633, dmeeker@nationalrenderers.com, http://nationalrenderers.org/

Poultry Science Association is a diverse global society dedicated to research and to dissemination and application of knowledge that supports an ethical and sustainable poultry food enterprise and enhances animal and human health and well-being. Contact: Lowell Randel, Washington Representative, 202/406-0212, lowell@therandelgroup.com, http://www.fass.org/index.asp?autotry=true&ULnotkn=true

U.S. Animal Health Association is a science-based organization of 1,400 members including state and federal animal health officials, national allied organizations, regional representatives, and individual members. USAHA represents all 50 states, 4 foreign countries and 34 allied groups serving health, technical and consumer markets. The mission is to protect animal and public health by serving as a national forum for communication and coordination concerning disease eradication; animal health; emergency preparedness; emergency response and recovery; emerging diseases; food safety; public health; animal welfare; and international trade. USAHA serves as a clearinghouse for new information and methods for policy and programs development and develops solutions for animal health issues. USAHA’s prime objective is to prevent, control and eliminate livestock diseases that cost ranchers, farmers and consumers approximately $1 billion per year. Contact: Ben Richey, Executive Director, 816/671-1144, brichey@usaha.org, http://www.usaha.org/