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One Health's 'What,' 'So What' to Animal Agriculture Focus of NIAA's 2010 Annual Meeting

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—"One Health" is a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of health care for humans and animals. Opening General Session speakers at the 2010 annual meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, March 15-17, in Kansas City, Mo., will zero in on the "What?" and "So What?" of the One Health concept as these two questions relate to animal agriculture.

"NIAA's Opening General Session speakers will look at how the One Health initiative and strategies shift the focus from surveillance to intervention and prevention and how challenges need to be faced collectively rather than in individual silos and disciplines," states Dr. Tony Forshey, co-chair of NIAA's Annual Meeting Planning Committee. "When individuals leave the Tuesday morning Opening General Session, they will be up to speed about One Health and its implications for animal agriculture."

NIAA's lineup of Opening General Session topics and speakers include:

- "One World, One Health: The Global Food Basket," Dr. Corrie Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine
- "The Genesis of One Health: What It's All About," Dr. Roger Mahr, DVM, CEO, One Health Commission
- "Past, Present and Future Veterinary Service's Roles in One Health," Dr. Joseph Anelli, One Health Coordinator, USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services
- "Environmental Health: How Does One Health Fit In?," Jay Ellenberger, Deputy Director, Environmental Protection Agency
- "How Will One Health Impact Livestock Producers?," Dr. Harry Snelson, DVM, American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- "One Health in the Real World," Dr. Billy Clay, DVM, MS, DABVT, AVMA Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine, Vetta Consulting LLC

At the conclusion of the six Opening General Session presentations, the speakers will partake in a panel discussion and address questions from annual meeting attendees.

“We’re excited to have these highly qualified individuals talk about One Health so those of us involved in animal agriculture know as much as possible about this concept that has the attention of major medical organizations and health agencies and the endorsement of more than 400 prominent scientists, physicians and veterinarians worldwide,” Dr. Forshey states. “One Health is underway and gaining momentum. As such, we can either become knowledgeable and involved now or we can react to its impact on animal agriculture.”

Dr. Forshey adds that species-specific discussions surrounding One Health will take place during NIAA’s species-based committee meetings on Tuesday afternoon, March 16, and Wednesday, March 17. Species-based committees include Cattle, Swine, Poultry, Equine, and Sheep & Goat. Each committee meeting will have its own line-up of nationally recognized speakers and species-specific topics.

NIAA’s issue-based committee meetings on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday will address Animal Care, Animal Health Emergency Management, Animal Health and International Trade, Animal Production Food Safety and Security, Emerging Diseases, and Animal Identification and Information Systems.

NIAA’s species committee meetings and issue-based committee meetings are open to NIAA members and non-members.

NIAA’s annual meeting will take place at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., with a block of rooms reserved at a special nightly rate of \$130/room, single or double occupancy. To receive this special rate, rooms must be reserved by Friday, Feb. 12, by calling 816-474-4400 and specifying that you are with the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

A schedule of events for NIAA’s 2010 annual meeting, meeting registration, list of NIAA committees and hotel information are available at the NIAA website:

www.animalagriculture.org. Individuals are also welcome to call NIAA at (719) 538-8843.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that unites and advances animal agriculture—the beef, dairy, equine, goat, poultry, sheep and swine industries. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our national and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. NIAA members represent producers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials, and business executives.

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