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One Health Initiative Center Stage at NIAA's 2010 Annual Meeting

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—"One Health: Implications for Animal Agriculture" is the theme of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), March 15-17 in Kansas City, Mo.

"One Health is a worldwide initiative focused on the interdependencies of human, animal and ecosystem health, and, with this concept comes significantly expanded roles and expectations placed on animal agriculture and professionals within animal agriculture," states Dr. Tony Forshey, co-chair of NIAA's Annual Meeting. "The general sessions and committee meetings at NIAA's Annual Meeting will explore how the initiative may impact the various species and segments within production animal agriculture and animal health management."

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. The lineup of speakers will represent active members on the One Health Commission, representatives from the veterinary and human health community and representatives of animal agriculture.

NIAA's 11 species-based and issue-based committees—which are open to NIAA members and non-members—will meet on Tuesday afternoon, March 16, and Wednesday, March 17. Issue-based committee meetings include 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. Species-based committees include cattle, swine, poultry, equine, and sheep and goat. Each committee meeting features its own line-up of nationally recognized speakers.

"NIAA's annual meeting is an ideal place for producers, animal health and management professionals, animal agriculture extension specialists and all of those involved in animal agriculture—cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and equine—to gather and become better informed and involved regarding One Health," Forshey adds.

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 for information.

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 are livestock producers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials, and business executives.

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