

FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

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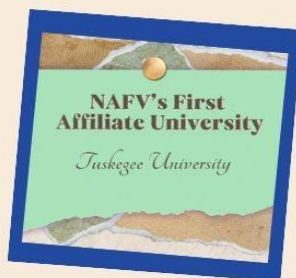
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**Executive Vice President
National Association of
Federal Veterinarians**
1910 Sunderland Pl., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1608

Any veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member. Dues are \$260.00 annually, payable annually, semiannually, PayPal (annually or monthly), or by federal payroll deductions (eligibility for payroll deduction is limited to USDA veterinarians --of \$10.00 authorized by signing USDA Form AD 1054 (FSIS) or SF 1187 (APHIS)). Uniformed veterinarians' dues are \$160.00 annually. Active-duty uniformed veterinarians- please contact the NAFV office. Associate membership is granted to active members when they retire from federal service. Associate members pay no dues. Associate members receive the NAFV newsletter by email.

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians is a non-profit corporation and the purposes for which it is formed are to promote the veterinary profession, to improve the professional efficiency and material interests of the members, to acquaint the public with the activities of veterinarians in the federal service, and to cooperate with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the United States Animal Health Association and other similar groups with common interests.

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The Role of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) measures employee engagement and satisfaction with their workplaces, or in other words morale. The FEVS serves as a tool for employees to share their perceptions in many critical areas including their work experiences, their agency, and their leadership.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) and its Office of Employee Experience (OEX) use the results of FEVS to inform efforts and the initiatives currently underway with the "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" ranking according to the Partnership for Public Service on employee satisfaction, engagement, and morale—all of which support and inform USDA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and the Secretary and Deputy Secretary's FY2022 priority to "Make USDA a Best Place to Work."

And this is where an association such as the National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) can come in.

Today's veterinarians are the only doctors educated to protect the health of both animals and people. These dedicated professionals apply their medical skills not in "private practice" but in "public practice" in the service of every American through the many programs administered by the federal government. Though federal veterinarians touch the lives of every American every day, many feel undercompensated, underappreciated, and overworked. These feelings can contribute to high employee turnover rates, which impact overall morale of the team, the health and wellness of Americans, and the agency's bottom line. Many times, there are significant gaps between the perceptions of an agency's executive leadership and the realities of mid-level management. This can be even worse when including agencies rank and file grassroots employees.

The majority of NAFV members (and most of the veterinarians employed by the federal government) work for the USDA. The results of FEVS indicated that morale is USDA is low, ranked 16 of 17 large federal agencies, only slightly better than the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When you look at the sub-agency rankings our major membership comes from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (ranked 298 out of 411) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (ranked 294 out of 411). For those working there, this may not come as a surprise. But, how can these agencies benefit from working with NAFV, as an association of managers and supervisors?

There are finer points of job satisfaction that the FEVS cannot measure. The impact of mandatory deployments on people's job satisfaction, for example. When that deployment is seen as furthering the mission of the agency, it can be a positive motivating factor; however, if that mandatory deployment is seen as making up for an agencies failure to fill critical vacancies, it has just the opposite effect on morale.

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where certain individuals seem to be exempt from deployment, then it can destroy the sense of accomplishment. This level of detail can't be reached by the FEVS, but through consultations with our members and executive leadership these insights can be addressed. In many cases, just hearing a third party explain the situation can make all the difference in how the issue is perceived.

In service of these public servants, the NAFV strives to serve both veterinarians and the agencies they work for by facilitating communication, making suggestions for improvements, and working collaboratively to address issues of concern.

This advocacy includes emphasizing professionalism and expertise in federal service, but also promoting continuing education, teamwork and morale, and a standard of excellence. NAFV can work with you to improve it and your professional working environment.

NAFV can approach senior leadership in the department with your concerns and possible solutions not as a union but as an organization that represent you medical / scientific professionals.

Our goal is to enhance the productivity and impact of your work life, which instills a positive sense of accomplishment. When a veterinarian is lifted, that positively reflects the team, and that morale boost translates into increased productivity and pride in your work which makes all the difference.

2023 USAHA/ AAVLD ANNUAL MEETING



Our President, Dr. Rachel- Cezar Martinez together with our Exec. Vice- Pres. Dr. Joseph Anelli and Erik Impraim attended the 127th USAHA Meeting.

1. VSV Situation Report 10/13/2023 Briefing APHIS

October 20, 2023

Since the last situation report (10/6/2023), there have been 9 new VSV-affected equine premises (0 confirmed positive, 9 suspect) identified in California. All confirmed cases to date have been vesicular stomatitis New Jersey virus (VSNJV) serotype. Updates are as follows:

California

Fresno County – 8 new suspect equine premises

Tulare County – 1 new suspect equine premises

Additionally, since the last situation report (10/6/2023), the following previously confirmed positive or suspect premises have been released from quarantine: 1 premises in Fresno County and 1 premises in Tulare County.

Counties with current VSV quarantines: Fresno and Tulare Counties

Nevada and Texas

No new confirmed positive premises have been identified.

Since the start of the outbreak (5/17/2023), 216 VSV-affected premises have been identified (71 confirmed positive, 145 suspect) in 3 states, California, Nevada, and Texas. Two hundred twelve (212) of these premises have had only equine species clinically affected, three (3) premises have had clinically affected cattle (San Diego County and Santa Barbara County, California), and one (1) premises has had clinically affected rhinoceros (San Diego County, California).

California has identified 213 affected premises (68 confirmed positive, 145 suspect) in 10 counties (Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura Counties). Texas identified 2 affected premises (2 confirmed positive) in 2 counties (Maverick and Shackelford Counties). Nevada identified 1 affected premises (1 confirmed positive) in 1 county (White Pine County, Nevada). Of the 216 total VSV-affected premises, 203 premises have completed the quarantine period with no new clinical cases and have been released from quarantine. Thirteen (13) premises remain quarantined in California.

2. Medgene, USDA to develop two FAD platform vaccines

Agreements are designed to apply Medgene's proprietary technologies against Nipah Virus and Rift Valley Fever.

National Hog Farmer

October 11, 2023

Important cooperative agreements were recently signed between the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Medgene, an animal health company that produces highly-targeted platform vaccines. The agreements are designed to apply Medgene's proprietary platform vaccine technologies against two well-known foreign animal diseases: Nipah Virus and Rift Valley Fever.

In the case of Nipah Virus, a highly fatal disease currently affecting swine in Southeast Asia, the agreement is to test Medgene's platform vaccines developed on its proprietary baculovirus protein expression system. The Rift Valley Fever agreement is to develop an assay to measure the antibody activity of Medgene's platform vaccines in order to differentiate an infected animal from a vaccinated animal. This assay is especially important to international trade as it helps ensure that diseased animals are not being released into unaffected populations. Rift Valley Fever is also a highly fatal disease that originated in Africa and affects livestock.

These projects are part of the Biologics Development Module at USDA's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, which aims to create collaborations that will enhance and expedite the transition of research to veterinary-medical products.

3. APHIS Announces Partnership to Improve Early Detection of Emerging Animal Diseases

APHIS Press Release

October 17, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing a new partnership between the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will place five scientists in labs in each of the five NAHLN regions to enhance the capabilities and capacities of NAHLN.

"We are thrilled to announce this partnership," said Dr. Rosemary Sifford, USDA's Chief Veterinarian. "Our goal is to ensure all network laboratories are poised to combat the threat of transboundary and emerging diseases to protect our nation's agricultural and food supply systems."

A review team made up of experts from APHIS, NBAF, and NAHLN identified five key NAHLN facilities across the country that will each host a scientist to work on this project. These scientists will evaluate and develop diagnostics for animal and zoonotic diseases. They will collaborate across the organizations, and will be responsible for evaluating local, regional, national, and international threats and ensuring the NAHLN laboratories have the tools necessary to diagnose emerging threats.

4. African swine fever requires action during National Pork Month

Producers need to advocate for important funding in the 2023 Farm Bill and participate in the review of the swine traceability standards.

By Scott Hays, NPPC president and pork producer from Missouri

National Hog Farmer

October 17, 2023

As we celebrate National Pork Month in October, we need to recognize the importance of protecting U.S. pigs from a foreign animal disease. According to an Iowa State University study, an African swine fever outbreak in this country could cost the U.S. pork industry more than \$75 billion over 10 years. Other agricultural sectors also would suffer as feed grain use would decline and livestock employment would fall. Pork exports valued at \$7.7 billion in 2022 would stop, forcing farmers out of business.

This topic is especially timely, given ongoing negotiations with the 2023 Farm Bill and proactive efforts underway by U.S. pork producers to strengthen the nation's swine traceability standards.

It's vital that lawmakers prioritize funding in the 2023 Farm Bill for prevention and preparedness efforts. Renewal and expansion of key farm bill programs will allow the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, state animal health officials and other stakeholders to deploy early detection, prevention and rapid-response tools should an outbreak occur. In addition, robust laboratory capacity will provide surveillance, and a viable stockpile of vaccines (for diseases which one is available) will support a rapid response.

5. ZOHU October Call Video Available- October 16, 2023

Vaccinating California Condors to Protect Against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza - Samantha Gibbs, DVM, PhD, MPH, Wildlife Veterinarian, Branch Chief Wildlife Health office- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

6. Texas A&M Receives Over \$1 Million In USDA Grants To Study SARS-CoV-2 In Deer

Scientists will work to understand how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads among deer and how it has impacted overall deer health. By Courtney Price, Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Texas A&M Today- October 17, 2023

Texas A&M University scientists and research partners have received two National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants to study the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in deer. These funds will help researchers understand the impact of the virus in Texas' deer populations and its relationship to human and ecological health.

For these projects, the research team will focus on captive deer, which are an agricultural species in Texas, including managed deer that live on large, rural properties enclosed by fences, as well as on the wild deer with which captive deer may interact and deer living in zoos and wildlife centers.

7. HPAI confirmed in Meeker County turkey flock [MN]

Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release- October 11, 2023

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was confirmed today in a commercial turkey flock of 140,000 birds in Meeker County. Samples were confirmed positive by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. The site is quarantined, and the birds on the premises were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease.

Poultry is safe to eat, and proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 °F is always advised.

"Unfortunately, HPAI seems to keep popping up during the seasonal migrations in Minnesota," said State Veterinarian Dr. Brian Hoefs. "Before today's detection our most recent cases were in the spring of this year. Anyone who has poultry should take this detection as a clear sign to keep a close eye on their flock and initiate your strongest biosecurity practices."

Senate Financial Services and General Government appropriations:

Personnel Flexibilities for Veterinarians.—The Committee notes that the struggle to recruit and retain veterinarians at the US Department of Agriculture's [USDA] Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS] and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] is a grave food security, public health, and national security concern. The Committee directs OPM to work with USDA to analyze options for hiring and personnel flexibilities for Federal veterinarians, including the potential use for special pay rates, and encourages the agencies to work together, and with other agencies as appropriate, to improve the recruitment and retention of Federal veterinarians.

Senate Ag-FDA

SEC. 768. If services performed by APHIS employees are determined by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be in response to an animal disease outbreak, any premium pay that is funded, either directly or through reimbursement, shall be exempted from the aggregate of basic pay and premium pay calculated under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, and any other provision of law limiting the aggregate amount of premium pay payable on a biweekly or calendar year basis: Provided, That this section shall take effect as if enacted on January 1, 2023.

SEC. 769. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Food Safety and Inspection Service to take any action that would result in the permanent relocation, demotion, or termination of any Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV), solely as result of the creation of the District Veterinary Medical Officer position, prior to completing a 1010 package and cost-benefit analysis, and briefing the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

NAFV's First Affiliate University

Tuskegee University

Announcing our University Affiliate category is now open for registration. We have our first University Affiliate, Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

This provides all students with free NAFV membership while in school. It opens the field of public practice to students who may have never considered it as a career choice. They get weekly updates on issues of importance to public practice veterinarians, access to members who could provide mentorship opportunities, and access to continuing education events on public practice issues.

Any school of veterinary medicine is eligible to become a University affiliate of the organization upon payment of prescribed dues. University affiliates are provided faculty members affiliate status free and all students enrolled in their academic programs leading to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or similar degree. The University agrees to validate a student's enrollment when they apply for Student University Affiliate status. University Affiliates have access to the NAFV website, networking with active members, webinars, and discount program.

Please consider joining as a University Affiliate to provide your students with this great opportunity. We have now dropped our price to a one-time fee rather than an annual fee. Don't miss out on this limited opportunity to expand your student's career choices.

Membership Benefits:

- ✓ Amplifies your Voice
- ✓ Protects your Rights
- ✓ Improves your Work Life
- ✓ Fights for you
- ✓ Improves your Personal Life
- ✓ Provide networking and Educational opportunities



FULBRIGHT
HBCU
2023 Institutional Leader



TEXAS A&M RECEIVES OVER \$1 MILLION IN USDA GRANTS TO STUDY SARS-COV-2 IN DEER



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Texas A&M University scientists and research partners have received two National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants to study the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in deer. These funds will help researchers understand the impact of the virus in Texas' deer populations and its relationship to human and ecological health.

For these projects, the research team will focus on captive deer, which are an agricultural species in Texas, including managed deer that live on large, rural properties enclosed by fences, as well as on the wild deer with which captive deer may interact and deer living in zoos and wildlife centers.

The first \$800,000 USDA grant will fund a multifaceted three-year project designed to help scientists understand how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads among deer and, for the first time, how the SARS-CoV-2 virus has impacted overall deer health. What makes the study unique is its focus on understanding disease in the context of whole ecological systems, examining not only how captive deer interact with each other, but also how the diverse wild and captive animal community may interact with the deer. For example, the study will investigate patterns of infection among captive deer, the humans who work with the deer, other domestic livestock on the ranches, as well as wild mammals in the environment.

To do this, researchers at Texas A&M will collaborate with the Deer Research Program at the Texas A&M University-Kingsville's (TAMUK) Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, which will help collect the large number of samples needed for the project.

"The first aim of the project is a screening study (testing the deer for SARS-CoV-2) of 30 ranches, farms, or other managed areas with deer across the state, such as safari-style parks and zoos," said Dr. Sarah Hamer, professor of epidemiology at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (VMBS) and lead researcher for Texas A&M on both projects. "This stage will allow us to see where there has been deer exposure to the virus in the past and where there are active infections."



Mike Cherry, Texas A&M-Kingsville, demonstrates how to conduct an ultrasound of the rump fat as a measure of deer body condition while veterinarian and Ph.D. student from Texas A&M-Kingsville Joe Hediger explains the process. The research team plans to determine if there are any measurable differences in fitness between SARS-CoV-2 infected and uninfected captive deer.



Francisco Ferreira, assistant research scientist in the Department of Entomology, and Sarah Hamer, professor of epidemiology at VMBS, collect an oral swab for SARS-CoV-2 testing from an immobilized deer that is part of a captive herd in September 2023.

Sarah Hamer/Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"For the last three years, zoonotic disease has brought the world to a halt and impacted virtually every aspect of life on earth," said Dr. Michael Cherry, a white-tailed deer expert at TAMUK and partner on the projects.

"Understanding the ecology of these diseases and how they affect human health, food security, and important sectors of the economy will make us better prepared for future zoonotic outbreaks."

"Most of the existing studies on wild deer rely on hunter-harvested samples," Sarah Hamer said. "A deer may test positive for a SARS-CoV-2 infection, but at that point, the body has been processed and we can't know its symptoms or if the virus impacted the deer's health or fitness in any way."

How NAFV expands your voice in Washington- FPC Fiscal Commission

October 27, 2023

Dear Representative:

The Federal-Postal Coalition, an alliance of thirty organizations representing more than five million active and retired federal and postal employees, urges you to oppose any Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 spending agreement that includes a “fiscal commission” to address the federal deficit.

A short-term funding bill, H.R. 5525, which failed in the House by a 198-232 vote on September 29, 2023, would have authorized such a commission. Similar standalone legislation, H.R. 5779, the Fiscal Commission Act of 2023, has been introduced in the House. The proposal may well resurface as Congress attempts to fund the government past November 17, 2023.

As described in the bills, the fiscal commission would consist of 16 members, including 12 members of Congress and four “outside experts” who could by majority vote furnish Congress with a privileged set of recommendations for reducing spending as well as Social Security and Medicare. Congress would be obliged, during the lame duck session in November 2024, to approve or disapprove the recommendations with minimal discussion and without amendment.

The proposed commission could effectively bypass the role of a democratically elected Congress in formulating and debating legislation and tax policy. The judgment of 12 handpicked members and four unelected outsiders would essentially supersede the role of 523 other Members of Congress. The commission should not be enacted.

Congress should budget according to our nation’s needs. That includes keeping Medicare and Social Security adequately funded, as the bedrock of middle-class health, security, and dignity in old age or disability. Congress must keep federal salaries, which already lag the private sector by an average of 24%, as competitive as possible to ensure a capable and qualified civil service.

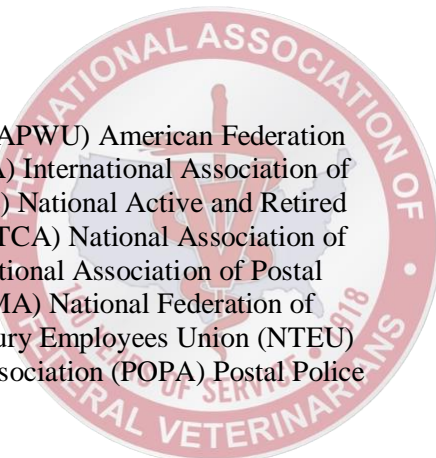
The history of fiscal commissions and super-committees, including Simpson-Bowles in 2010, is that they either fail to reach meaningful agreements or propose cuts to benefits for the middle class and federal workers, while setting aside difficult decisions on taxes, or even proposing further tax cuts. Such was the case with Simpson-Bowles, which failed to reach an agreement and whose only enacted legacy was a three-year federal pay freeze and a permanent extra 3.6% levy collected to this day against federal wages, ostensibly to pay for retirement benefits and an extension of unemployment benefits in 2011. No other group of American citizens was asked to sacrifice in this way.

To the federal and postal workers we represent, fiscal commissions, while perhaps well-intentioned, often have unanticipated and ongoing consequences. Employees are often called upon to contribute their earnings toward some attempt at reducing the federal deficit, while elected officials avoid serious discussion on the overall federal budget and the appropriate balance between revenues and outlays. For these reasons, the undersigned organizations ask you to please oppose the proposed fiscal commissions reflected in recent bills, or any similar fiscal commission.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations ask you to please oppose the proposed fiscal commissions reflected in recent bills, or any similar fiscal commission.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) American Postal Workers Union (APWU) American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Federal Managers Association (FMA) International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE) National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA) National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO) Patent Office Professional Association (POPA) Postal Police Officers Association (PPOA) Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)



VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Senate VA bill directs agency to rethink how it fires poor-performing employees

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee leaders are moving ahead with their own proposal to remove VA employees accused of misconduct after department leaders panned a recent House bill with the same goal.

The bipartisan Senate bill, however, takes a different approach by strengthening existing tools, and calling VA leaders to make better use of the authorities they already have to fire, demote or suspend poor-performing employees.

The 2023 Leadership, Engagement, Accountability, and Development (LEAD) Act directs the VA to standardize the way it builds a case against employees who face allegations of misconduct or poor performance and to train the entire VA workforce on the ins and outs of the process.

Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.) introduced the legislation last week, along with Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.).

“Bad actors at VA will not be tolerated — period,” Tester said.

“Our bipartisan bill will overhaul VA’s oversight tools to root out and prevent misconduct at the department, ensuring we have the very best leaders and employees serving the men and women who risked their lives for this country.” Moran said the LEAD Act would help the VA keep its workforce accountable for providing care and benefits to veterans, while “attracting the best and brightest to VA’s workforce.”



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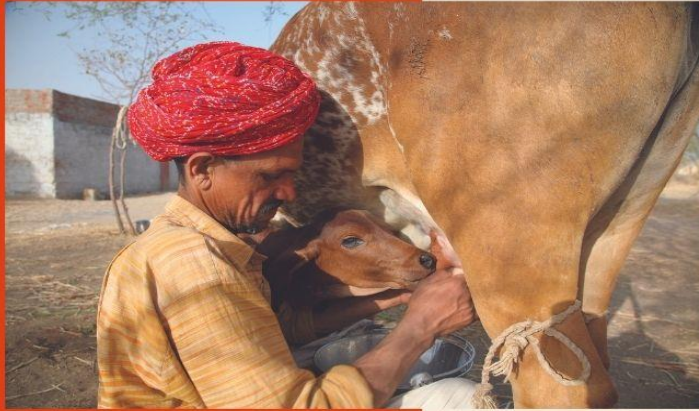
When bad actors and poor performing employees are appropriately held accountable and the right oversight mechanisms are in place, veterans and hardworking VA employees — who make up the vast majority of the workforce — will all benefit,” Moran said. “While VA has the ability and authority to remove bad actors today, there can be delays and reductions in penalties largely due to inconsistent processes and paperwork shortcomings,” senators wrote in a summary of the bill.

Rounds said the bill ensures that VA employees providing care to veterans are “held to a high standard,” and would improve the VA’s ability to hold bad actors accountable, protect whistleblowers and increase patient safety at VA facilities.

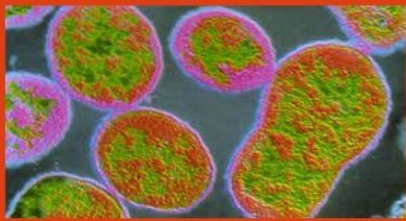
The LEAD Act also calls on the VA to keep its medical facilities staffed up when employees under investigation are pulled away from their frontline medical positions.

Congressional staffers, in an exclusive briefing on the bill’s details, told Federal News Network that a standardized process and better training will ensure the VA gets a full record of an employee’s alleged misconduct before proceeding with adverse personnel decisions.

A one-health review on brucellosis in the United States



Brucellosis is a highly infectious zoonotic disease of global significance due to its adverse impact on public health, economics, and trade. Despite being one of the most prevalent zoonoses worldwide, attention given to global brucellosis control and prevention has been inadequate. *Brucella* species of greatest one-health relevance in the US include those infecting dogs (*Brucella canis*), swine (*Brucella suis*), and



cattle and domestic bison (*Brucella abortus*). Although not endemic in the US, *Brucella melitensis* warrants awareness as it poses a risk to international travelers. While brucellosis has been eradicated from domestic livestock in the US, its detection in US companion animals (*B canis*) and US wildlife reservoirs (*B suis* and *B abortus*) and enzootic presence internationally pose a threat to human and animal health, warranting its spotlight on the one-health stage. The challenges of *B canis* diagnosis in humans and dogs is addressed in more detail in the companion Currents in One Health by Guarino et al, AJVR, April 2023. Human consumption of unpasteurized dairy products and occupational exposure of

laboratory diagnosticians, veterinarians, and animal care providers are responsible for human exposures reported to the US CDC. Diagnosis and treatment of brucellosis is challenging due to the limitations of diagnostic assays and the tendency of *Brucella* spp to produce nonspecific, insidious clinical signs and evade antimicrobial therapy, making prevention essential. This review will focus on zoonotic considerations for *Brucella* spp found within the US.

Lethal Form of Bird Flu Found in The Antarctic For The First Time

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in the Antarctic region after brown skuas on Bird Island, South Georgia, tested positive for the virus. These are the first identified



cases of avian influenza in the Antarctic. Researchers have previously expressed concern about the devastating impact an outbreak could have on many wildlife species in the Antarctic. Government and research teams in the area are taking action to monitor and limit the disease's spread, including putting most animal handling work on hold. Avian influenza, or bird flu, has been around for a long time. But HPAI H5N1 has one recently emerged as a highly pathogenic strain, becoming a subject of global concern over its high mortality rates. Potentially symptomatic birds and unexplained deaths were reported to the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), so staff on Bird Island samples for analysis, and HPAI H5N1 was detected.



Numerous species of seabirds, penguins, and other birds live in the Antarctic, many of which are not found anywhere else on Earth. These birds are frequently densely populated, and have limited natural immunity to avian influenza due to a lack of historical exposure, making them extremely vulnerable to infection. Earlier this month, Antarctic research teams announced they were implementing extra measures.



STUDENTS & PROGRAM UPDATES



THE SAUL T. WILSON, JR., INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Are you a student in veterinary medicine or biomedical sciences? We have paid internships—with tuition assistance—available at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Our interns work alongside APHIS veterinarians and other experts at the forefront of animal health to protect American agriculture. As a Saul T. Wilson, Jr., intern, you will experience the realworld situations facing Federal regulatory veterinarians every day. This includes work in the field, animal health laboratories, and office settings. For example, you may assist with veterinary technician duties, conduct routine tests at one of our labs, help our disease programs collect data, and much more. We provide a wide range of learning opportunities so our interns are prepared for life in the public veterinary field.

Up to \$7,500 per year for undergraduate studies and up to \$15,000 for graduate studies for tuition, books, tutors, and laboratory fees. Paid employment during summer and school breaks as a Veterinary Student Trainee.

USDA PATHWAYS PROGRAM: ADEL A. MALAK SCHOLARSHIP

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). FSIS is on the front line every day inspecting meat, poultry, and egg products. The Agency coordinates inspection and enforcement activities in more than 6,500 federally inspected establishments nationwide, as well as at import establishments, ensuring that the products that FSIS regulates are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. Our Agency protects the public from foodborne illness. Assisting in this mission are dedicated Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) who are trained in public health and regulatory medicine. FSIS is the largest federal employer of veterinarians in the United States.



The USDA Pathways Program offers opportunities for students and recent graduates to work in agriculture, science, technology, math, environment, management, business, and many other fields. FSIS participates in this program, offering the Adel A. Malak Scholarship to create a pipeline to attract and retain talented veterinarians to protect public health through food safety. The Adel A. Malak Scholarship provides students:

- \$15,000 scholarship funding for tuition, books, tutors and laboratory fees awarded for each year in the program, up to four years.
- Paid employment during summer and school breaks as a Veterinary Student Trainee while you complete your DVM. The work schedule during the academic year is negotiable. & many more!





FEDERAL VETERINARIANS

ARE YOU PREPARED?

As you know, Federal Veterinarians are critical in ensuring the nation's food safety and animal/livestock health with innumerable food safety initiatives, guidelines through FSIS, APHIS, DHS, CDC, and FDA, and various animal health programs. Many federal veterinarians also have the dual role of a manager, supervisor or officer within their respective agency. **This leaves you extremely susceptible to allegations, complaints, or potential lawsuits- just for doing your job.** Are you emotionally, financially and legally prepared to become the subject of an adverse administrative action, disciplinary proceeding, or civil lawsuit?

The following is based off a real claims scenario from a federal veterinarian

Picture this: You are the subject of an Internal Controls Staff investigation of employee accountability for the unsanitary conditions found at one of the meat processing plants you supervise, which had its operations suspended and resulted in the agency recalling over 50,000 lbs. of meat. The findings of the investigation lead the agency to propose your removal from federal service based on a charge of neglect of duty, alleging that you failed to perform your regulatory and supervisory duties at the meat processing plant. While you argue that your actions were consistent with sanitation guidelines, the agency maintains its position and issues a final decision to sustain that charge. You are forced to appeal and litigate your removal before the Merit Systems Protection Board, or risk losing your livelihood.

WITHOUT FEDS PROTECTION

You spend months paying out hourly fees to expensive federal employment attorneys in an attempt to defend yourself against the charges. The stress of the unknown begins to take a toll on your personal life, and as your savings begin to dwindle, you are forced to make the difficult decision to resign from federal employment in the best interest of your family's needs and finances and must begin looking for a new career.

WITH FEDS PROTECTION

You are assigned your own personal attorney specializing in federal employment law and MSPB appeals, paid for entirely by your PLI policy. Although it still takes months, your attorney handles all of the stressful paperwork and procedures, and succeeds in winning the appeal. You continue to be gainfully employed by your federal agency without loss in pay or grade.

FEDS Protection is Affordable

\$1,000,000 Policy Limit; \$280 Annual Premium*

\$2,000,000 Policy Limit; \$380 Annual Premium*

50% Agency Reimbursement

All managers & supervisors are eligible for up to 50% agency reimbursement for a net cost of only \$140 per year.

***You must enter discount code "NAFV" for this pricing.**

Surplus lines taxes apply.

Your FEDS policy must be in place before any allegations or complaints in order for coverage to apply, so don't delay.

Enroll today at www.fedprotection.com or call 866.955.FEDS.

>>> NEW MEMBERS:

- Muzafar Makhdoomi
- Honorate Hansen
- Marjorie Gurganus
- Jeffrey Richards
- Emily Baier
- Renee Chicoine
- Randell Daily
- Ashley Neal
- Juan Barajas
- Chelsea Buckley
- Lauren Vesprani
- Brianna Wooten
- Victoria Hicks
- Michael Mattia
- Amory Koch

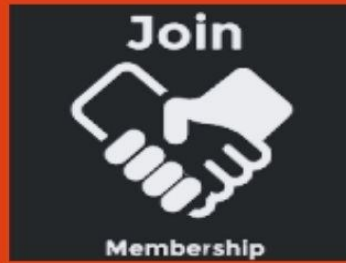


>>> NEW MEMBERS

Download the member-plus app. A free mobile app where you can check for the directory and latest updates about us. Always be updated!

Works to develop approaches to increase membership and enhance the membership experience. Be active and join our committees!

>>> RETIRED MEMBERS



>>> ACTIVE MEMBERS

Make sure to check the latest news and federal public veterinary jobs in our website.

As an NAFV Member you can now make a plan with GreenPath for your financial health. We hope you enjoy our site and can put it to good use in your everyday life.

>>> FINANCIAL SECTION



Make the most out of your membership by checking our website: www.nafv.org



We encourage our members in becoming an AVMA member. AVMA membership supports you with benefits that enhance your opportunities for success in both your professional and personal life. Be sure to take advantage of the full array of benefits to get the most out of your AVMA membership.

BENEFITS:

- Career Services
- Powerful purchasing solutions
- Insurance and retirement products
- Online continuing education
- Professional publications
- Wellbeing
- Clinical policy resources
- Events and networking
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- Scholarships and grants

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