



Greetings from AGF!

AGF is pleased to welcome new individual members Heather Karns, Kevin Moyers, Living in Harmony Farm, B. Little, and Heather Kimball. Also, AGF would like to thank all of the organizations, affiliates and individuals who have renewed their memberships!

If you are not a member and would like to join, you can contact the office or follow this link:

[JOIN AGF](#)

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AGF Representatives Attended the USDA NIFA ARS webinar and provided input on science priorities for Antimicrobial Resistance in Animal Health.

On July 19th AGF representatives provided input on behalf of the goat industry to help develop the final report.



Secretary Ed Avalos is leaving the USDA position of Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.



The American Goat Federation is seeking Director Candidates to serve on the Board of Directors.

Terms run for 3 years and nominating candidates must be members of AGF. If you are interested in serving the goat industry by being an active, contributing director to AGF, please contact the office or go to the website and complete the nomination form.

If you are not a member, you can also join AGF either by filling out an application and mailing it in, or by completing the form and paying on the website.



AGF to Provide
Comments on USDA
Proposal to Lift BSE
Ban on Imports of Live
Sheep and Goats and
Their Products

AGF is reviewing the proposed rule in detail and will be developing comments for submission.

The current import regulations prohibit the importation of most live sheep and goats and their products from countries considered at risk for BSE.

These were established when the risk of sheep and goats related to BSE was not well known.

These regulations also protect against the introduction of other TSEs, such as Scrapie. The restrictions have disrupted trade and caused economic hardship for U.S. producers seeking to introduce new genetics into their herds.

Processed animal protein that contains ruminant material will continue to be considered a BSE risk and will continue to be restricted from countries that are not negligible risk for BSE.

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Dr. Janet Donlin has been named executive vice president/chief executive officer of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Dr. Donlin has served as a chief executive officer of the AVMA Professional Liability Insurance Trust Fund since April

## National Scrapie Eradication Program July 2016 [FY2015] Report

At the end of FY 2015, the percent of cull black face sheep found positive at slaughter was 0.02 percent. The current value of this measure is 0.011 percent, a 98.6 percent decrease compared to FY 2003. One infected and three source flocks were designated in FY 2015. Two infected and three source flocks have been designated in FY 2016. At the end of FY 2015, the percent of cull sheep found positive at slaughter and adjusted for face color\* was 0.004 percent. As of July 31, 2016, this measure was 0.002 percent.

In November 2014, the first positive goat found through RSSS was identified. Based on all goats sampled at slaughter, the prevalence of scrapie in U.S. cull goats is 0.003 percent with an upper 95 percent confidence limit of 0.011 percent. ... To date, no other goats have tested positive at slaughter. [Read Complete Report](#)

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## National Institute for Animal Agriculture [NIAA] NEWS

**NIAA will hold the sixth Antibiotics Symposium: *Working Together for Better Solutions*: 2016 on November 1-3 in Herndon, Virginia.**

The Symposium will involve all sectors of the animal food production and human/public health industries, and provides a setting for a thoughtful exchange to outline what appropriate use of antibiotics really means, focused on a collaborative and continued dialogue about antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance.

Presenters will include CDC, FDA, and USDA, along with industry leaders, retailers, processors, producers and representatives from both human and public health.

[For more information](#)

**The American Goat Federation is a member of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.**

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## United States Animal Health Association [USAHA] NEWS

**120th USAHA / 59th AAVLD Annual Meeting will be held October 13-19, 2016 in Greensboro, North Carolina.**

The meeting will include symposiums on Food Safety, High Tech in Animal Agriculture, USDA-ARS National Animal Health Research Review in addition to Committee Meetings. [For More Info](#)

2013.

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InterstateLivestock.com Developing Second Phase of the Site

InterstateLivestock.com was developed as a partnership of the United State Health Association (JSAHA) and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) through a collaborative effort of states, USA, members of both organizations and Trace First, the service provider. AGF is a member of both USAHA and NIAA.

The site provides resources for finding requirements to move animals across state lines. The first phase featured catelle movement regulations, and now the second phase is under development. This phase will include Goats.

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### AGF Awards Scrapie Eradication Program Education Sub-Grant to the American Dairy Goat Association for an Educational Event at their Annual Conference

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University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet) Adds New Course on Animal Welfare

A new course on animal welfare is available as an elective this fall to second-

The American Goat Federation is a member of the United States Animal Health Association.

Other News

21 Land Grant Universities Create Animal Feed Database

Since forming in 2010, the National Animal Nutrition Program has create a database of animal feed ingredients.

The database is a vital tool to inform cost-effective production decisions, animal welfare policies and procedures and to guarantee the safety and nutritional value of consumers' food. Activities conducted by the program aid in the development of feeding strategies and research to enhance animal health, which allows for better productivity and lowered costs. *by PR Newswire 8/9/16*

The Animal Agriculture Alliances Releases Report from 2016 Taking Action for Animals

The report contains details and observations from The Humane Society of the United States' Action for Animals conference that was held June 17-20 in Arlington, Virginia.

"Part of the Alliance's mission is to protect the industry from organizations like the HSUS that are focused on spreading misinformation about animal agriculture," said Kay Johnson Smith, Alliance president and CEO. "Sending participants to events like this allows us to gather crucial insights into activist strategies and tactics, so we can help our members prepare and respond to threats."

Recurring themes throughout the conference included impacting the food industry by pushing restaurants and retailers to adopt restrictive policies that ultimately do not improve animal well-being although they do raise the cost of animal care and in turn increase food prices for consumers, and the use of religion to promote an animal rights agenda. [For more info](#)

Kansas State Univesity Receives \$2.3 Million Federal Grant

The university's Center for Excellence for Emerging Zoonotic and Animal Diseases received the federal grant to study the safety in livestock of a newly developed vaccine to protect humans from the Elboa Zaire Virus.

The university's Biosecurity Research Institute will be used to conduct the project. [For more info](#)

Universities Call for Increased Funding for Ag Research

Purdue University, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana have joined the Supporters of Agriculture Research Foundation in seeking more research dollars, saying the growing population has demonstrated a need for sustainable foo production.

year students. In addition, a two-hour lecture about animal welfare will be included for the first time in the mandatory curriculum for first-year students.

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### **Solar Powered Ear Tags for Livestock**

Producers could soon monitor the heart rate and body temperature of their livestock through their smartphone using a solar-powered ear tag. The WM Systems tag - designed by Ollie Godwin, an industrial design and technology student at Loughborough University - records heart rate and body temperature every 5 minutes, alerting producers to potential health problems if either is outside set limits.

Location is also monitored, and a pulsating LED on the tag allows producers to visually identify the animal flagged by the system.

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AGF Provided Several Support Statement and Letters:

Support for a California Specialist in Sheep and Goat Herd Health and Production position.

Letter of Support for a Feasibility Study to Explore Increasing Goat Carcasses Size.

Letter of Support for a research project re "Identification of Genetic Regions Associated with Shedding of *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever) in

Federal spending on ag research has remained flat, even though USFAS says every public dollar invested in ag research provides \$20.00 in return. In May, the Senate Committee on Appropriations approved a \$25 million increase for the USDA's Agriculture & Food Research Initiative program for Fiscal year 2017. That would be a 15 percent increase over the past two fiscal years. *by Andrew Flinn, Brownfield Ag News 6/15/16*

Drugmakers Focused ON Vaccines as Alternative to Antibiotics for Livestock

The new research center, built and operated by Elanco LLC, a unit of Eli Lilly & Co. is focused exclusively on developing vaccines as alternatives to antibiotics. It is part of a broader effort by the drug industry to join forces with the medical establishment to reduce the use of antibiotics as resistant superbugs become more prevalent in hospitals, nursing homes and other public places. Weaning animals from antibiotics in favor of vaccines has become central to that effort. *by Jared S Hopkins, Western Farmer-Stockman, 8/9/16.*

University of Minnesota Plans New Investment in AG Research, Education and Extension

A nearly \$5 million state investment in agricultural productivity will be used to hire scientists and improve infrastructure across seven areas of collaboration across 3 UofM colleges and at research and outreach and Extension sites across Minnesota. Under the new AGREETT plan, new faculty, technicians and graduate students will be hired to work in seven key areas: crop and livestock productivity; microbial science; advancing soil fertility and water quality; agricultural technology and decision-making; nutrient recycling and management; agro-ecological innovation; and technologies aimed at managing pest resistance and climate change. *By Twin cities News 8/2/16.*

Milk, Not Plastic will Protect Food in the Future

U.S. Dept of Agriculture researchers have discovered that a milk protein called casein can be used to develop an edible, biodegradable packaging film. This film is up to 500 times better than plastic at keeping oxygen away from food because proteins form a tighter network when they polymerize. It is also more effective than current edible packaging made from starch and it protects food products that are sensitive to light. *by Amrith Ramkumar, Bloomberg 8/22/16*

Livestock Pest Management Vital to Animal Health

Face and horn flies are the most common and most treated pests on North Dakota livestock operations, producers reported in a recent NDSU Extension Service survey. According to Miranda Meehan, "In the U.S., horn flies are estimated to cause an economic loss of \$1 billion annually." [For More Info](#)

Goats.

[Follow this Link To read complete letters](#)

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The American Goat Federation is a 501(c)(5) nonprofit organization.



[Visit Website](#)

Happenings

Oklahoma Hills Meat Goat Conference will be held September 9-10, 2016 in Porum, Oklahoma. [For more Info](#)

The 27th Annual International Goat Days Family Festival will be held September 9 - 10, 2016 at USA Stadium complex in Millington, Tennessee. [More Info](#)

California Multi-Species Grazing/Browsing Academy will be held September 16-18, 2016 at UCCE Placer in Auburn, California. [For Registration Info](#)

20th Annual Worldwide Agriculture Conference will be held September 18-21, 2016 in Fargo, North Dakota. [For More Info](#)

First Animal Biotech Summit will be held September 21-23, 2016 in Bethesda, Maryland. Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) is hosting the event. The summit will feature speakers from industry, academia and government agencies. [For More Info](#)

The 6th Tennessee Dairy Goat Conference will be held September 22-24, 2016 at the Lane Agri-Park Facility, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It is sponsored and hosted by the Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program.

Corn County Commercial Goat Conference will be held September 30 - October 1, 2016 at the Harrison County Fairgrounds, Corydon, Indiana. [For More Info](#)

KIO Tri-State Small Ruminant Summit will be held October 1, 2016 at the Boone County Enrichment Center in Burlington, Kentucky. [For More Info](#)

National Institute of Food & Agriculture's (NIFA) Division of Animal Systems in conjunction with the Agriculture Research Services (ARS) Animal Health Program Series of Webinars will be held Oct 20 to Nov 15 to identify, discuss, and prioritize the most pressing animal health research needs of stakeholders. [For More Info](#)

[CORRECTION] The American Dairy Goat Association Annual Convention will be held October 25 thru 30, 2016 in Austin, Texas. More info at: [ADGA Website](#)

American Goat Federation 2017 Annual Meeting and Producers' Seminar will be held January 24 - 25, 2017 in Denver, Colorado. [Read More](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

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