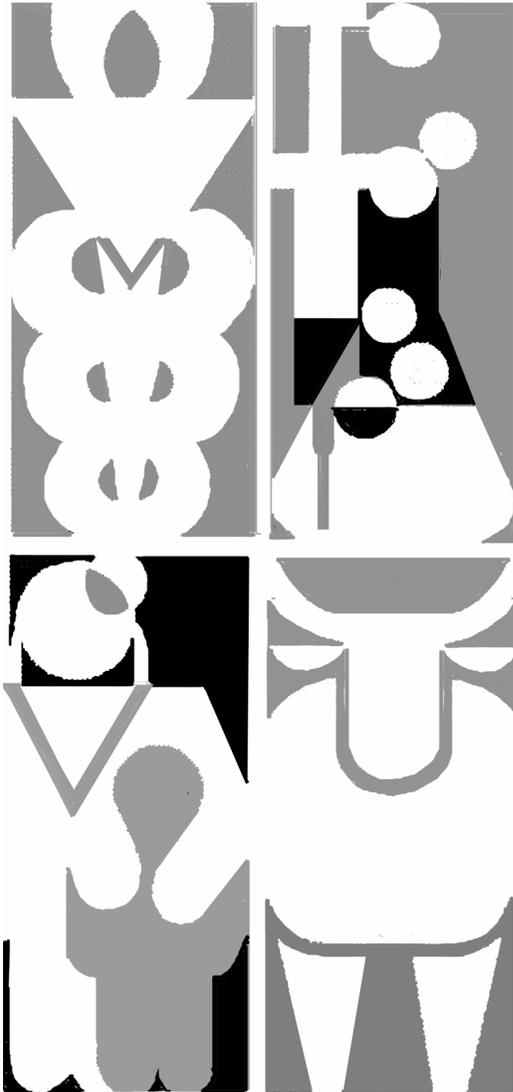


NEWSLETTER



Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

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AVEPM is committed to developing and fostering the academic base for veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine

Visit the AVEPM Web site at...

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

AVEPM Board Meeting Minutes

Marriott Chicago Magnificent Mile
December 4, 2006
7:00 a.m.

Officers and Board Members present were Drs. Tom Wittum, Randy Singer, Morgan Scott, Ron Smith and Jim Thorne.

Treasurer's report: Secretary-Treasurer Thorne distributed copies of the December 1, 2005 to November 30, 2006 treasurer's report (copy attached). He discussed various aspects of the report. Of note was the large carryover from 2005 and the larger expenses over income for 2006. This was due to the reimbursement to USDA of \$ 24,300 due to the overpayment from USDA in 2005. The overpayment was the result of federal logistics problems created by hurricane Katrina.

CRWAD awards: Dr. Morgan Scott volunteered to coordinate the CRWAD award selection for 2007. By consensus, directors elected to award one Food Safety graduate student award, two Epidemiology graduate student awards and one graduate student Poster award for 2006 with a stipend of \$ 250 each. Dr. Tom Wittum is coordinator this year and has score sheets for AVEPM faculty evaluators.

Schwabe Symposium: Approximately 60 attended the Schwabe Symposium on Sunday, December 3. Honoree was Dr. Wayne Martin of Ontario Veterinary College—a three decade stalwart in international veterinary epidemiology. Speakers were Drs. Cate Dewey, Jan Sargeant, Brian Bedard and Ian Dohoo. Bayer Animal Health is a major donor to this program. Coordinator was Dr. Paul Morley. He will get copies of expense to treasurer Thorne for reimbursement.

Dr. Jan Sargeant is coordinating transcription of the proceedings. Expense for that will be reimbursed by AVEPM.

AVEPM annual meeting expense will be paid by AVEPM. This includes board meeting breakfast expense and housing expense for secretary-treasurer Thorne.

Newsletter: Dr. Ron Smith explained that no publication expenses have been incurred for the AVEPM newsletter because after he retired he had funds remaining at University of Illinois. Now that those funds are expended we will be sending the newsletter by email. Secretary-Treasurer Thorne will facilitate this mailing based on membership status.

ISVEE in Cairns, Australia: Dr. Morgan Scott reported on graduate student participation in the AVEPM competition to receive awards of \$ 1,000 from AVEPM to attend ISVEE and make their presentation. Five

graduate students (all AVEPM members) were awarded \$ 1,000 to assist in travel expenses. Awards were made to Walid Alali, Michelle Dennis, Linda Highfield, Audrey Torres and Antonio Vieira. Treasurer Thorne has copies of travel expenses incurred by the recipients.

Proposed Graduate Student Awards: Board members discussed the offer of Dr. Mo Salman to subsidize the travel of graduate students to scientific conferences. Members thought that this was an excellent idea and will defer making detailed criteria until a future meeting. Predominate thinking was to use these funds for ISVEE graduate student awards. The next ISVEE meeting is in Durban, South Africa in 2009.

Eighty-seven member paid dues in between December 1, 2006 and November 30, 2006.

Officers

At the end of 2007, President Elect Dr. Morley will ascend to President. Therefore, in 2007 AVEPM should elect a President (ascends from President Elect) a President-Elect and one board member. Director Dr. Randy Singer's term will expire at the end of 2007.

Dues status of members:

21 dues expire in 2003
17 dues expire in 2004
38 dues expire in 2005
87 dues expire in 2006
6 dues expire in 2007
5 dues expire in 2008

Respectfully submitted

James G Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer

AVEPM Annual Meeting Minutes

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
December 4, 2006

President Dr. Tom Wittum called meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

He introduced himself as President, President-elect Dr. Paul Morley, Board Directors Dr. Morgan Scott and Dr. Randy Singer and Secretary Dr. Jim Thorne.

It was moved and seconded to accept minutes of annual meeting Dec 5, 2005 as distributed in the AVEPM Newsletter. Motion carried.

Newsletter: Dr. Ron Smith discussed email of newsletter. Some suggested that we use epivet list to update AVEPM by email. Questions arose "Can we send over epi-vet list?" "Can we put on website?" Consensus was to put on website. Secretary Thorne

will compile lists denoting dues expiration and distribute those lists by email.

Schwabe Symposium: Dr. Paul Morley Honoring Dr. Wayne Martin of Quelp Veterinary College it was held Sunday, December 3, 2006. Speakers were Dr. Catherine Dewey, Dr Jan Sargeant, Dr. Brian Bedard and Dr. Ian Dohoo (all former graduate students of Dr. Martin). Dr. Wayne Martin gave the keynote address. Attendance was approximately 60, as in previous years. Dr. Morley reported that the 2004 and 2005 symposia have not been published. He expects that 6 papers from those two years will be published. For 2006, Dr. Jan Sargeant has acquired a transcription service. Dr. Paul will continue to coordinate the Schwabe Symposium for two more years. After that, the new president elect will coordinate the symposium last year of his/her term. Considering an international candidate is desirable but difficult logistically. Consensus of members was to continue with North American emphasis on honorees. Thanks were expressed to Bayer Animal Health for their financial support of the Schwabe Symposium.

Dr. Ian Gardner led the members in applause commending Dr. Paul Morley for his coordination of the Schwabe Symposium activity.

CRWAD Awards: Dr. Wittum reported that the AVEPM board decided to make two awards for epidemiology oral presentation (13 entered), one for food safety oral presentation (6 entries) and one for posters presentation (6 entered). Each award will be \$ 250.

ISVEE: Dr. Morgan Scott coordinated the competition for the 5 ISVEE student awards of \$ 1,000 for travel to ISVEE XI in Cairns, Australia in August 2006. There were 35 abstracts submitted and subsequently 20+ papers for review. He had judging by reviewers based on quantitative criteria. Awards were made to Walid Alali, Michelle Dennis, Linda Highfield, Audrey Torres and Antonio Vieira.

Dr. Paul Morley led the members in commending Drs. Ron Smith and Jim Thorne for their support of the organization after their academic retirement.

New Business

Officer election for 2007 will be for President Elect and a Board Member.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer

Members present:

Singer, Randy
Morley, Paul
Scott, Morgan
Smith, Ronald
Gardner, Ian
Lord, Linda
Funk, Julie
Sanderson, Mike
Reid, Stuart

Wittum, Tom
Thomas, Chet
Thorne, Jim

AVEPM Financial Report – Fall 2006

AVEPM	
Balance Dec 1	55,229.58
Income	
Dues Paid	2,200.00
Interest	306.45
Bayer	5,000.00
Epidemiology training USDA	44,593.79
Total Income	52,100.24
Expenses	
Epidemiology Training for USDA	20,400.00
USDA Reimbursement	24,033.00
USDA Expenses	6,188.50
USDA Travel	2,803.29
Grant - CSU Foundation	13,300.00
Schwabe Award	4,914.96
NCPPSP Dues	500.00
NCPPSP Meeting Expenses	411.19
Postage	39.28
Checks	38.58
Bank Charge	16.44
Miscellaneous (Annual Meeting)	173.71
CRWAD Awards	1,300.00
ISVEE Awards	5,000.00
Total Expenses	79,118.95
Income over Expenses	-27,018.71
Balance November 30, 2006	28,210.87

AVEPM Officers – Fall 2006

President

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The Ohio State University
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Elected Fall 2005 – serving to fall 2007

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Elected fall 2005 - serving to fall 2007, then to president in fall of 2007

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Elected fall 2004 – serving to fall 2006

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lhunger@epi.umaryland.edu

Elected fall 2005 – serving to fall 2007

AVEPM Continuing Education Committee Report

On behalf of the continuing education committee please see below the activities during the year:

1. The CE committee will conducted two training sessions on basic veterinary epidemiology during this coming spring and summer. The sessions will be sponsored by USDA:APHIS. One of these sessions will be for veterinary officers and the other will be for animal health technicians. In addition Dr. Ian Gardner on behalf of AVEPM conducted a training session last month for scientists at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory of USDA: APHIS.

2. I was asked by USDA: Foreign Agriculture Services and USDA:APHIS to plan and conduct training sessions on disease investigations and epidemiology of avian influenza in Indonesia. Due to the nature of this contract, I requested Colorado State University to subcontract AVEPM to coordinate these training sessions. Drs. Ian Gardner (UCD), Barb McCarthy (CSU), Kristy Pabilonia (CSU), and I will participate in preparation and conducting the first session of this training program on Dec 14-23, 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The AVEPM is part of the sponsoring organizations for this training. The AVEPM will secure funding for future professional uses through this contract. Dr. Thorne has been very helpful in satisfying the sub-contract and its requirements. I will therefore propose to use \$ 1,500 from the financial benefit of this contract toward an honorarium for Dr. Thorne. The Association will have at least \$ 4,000 financial benefit from this subcontract.

A description of the training sessions follows:

AVEPM is co-sponsoring a series of two-week workshops in avian influenza epidemiology in various locales within Indonesia. The purpose of the workshops is to prepare local field personnel with a general understanding of the principles of veterinary

epidemiology, disease investigations, useful information systems, data collection practices, biosecurity and biological sample procurement. Each workshop provides training for 30-40 Indonesians who are poultry managers or field veterinarians. In addition, a 3rd or 4th year veterinary medicine student from a US school joins the participants for each session. The first portion of the workshop uses instructor-led presentations, worksheets, break-out group discussions and reports to teach the principles of epidemiology and preventive medicine as applied to avian influenza. Subsequently, workshop participants practice the skills they are learning through tabletop exercises and a local field visit.

The other co-sponsors include the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), the Center for Indonesian Veterinary Analytical Studies (CIVAS) and Colorado State University.

Dates and locations for all sessions are listed below:

1. Tangerang (Dec 13 thru Dec 23, 2006 - DKI Jakarta, West Java, Banten, DI Yogyakarta, Central Java
2. Medan (26 Feb – 9 March 2007) - West Sumatera, Riau, Aceh, Riau Islands
3. Surabaya (2 April – 13 April 2007) - East Java, Central Java, Madura
4. Denpasar (7 May – 18 May 2007) - Bali, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, South Kalimantan, East Kalimantan
5. Makassar (28 May – 8 June) - South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, North Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, Maluku, North Maluku, Papua, West Papua
6. Bandar Lampung (27 August – 7 Sept) - Lampung, Bengkulu, Jambi, South Sumatera, Bangka Belitung

3. I will donate my honorarium from the Indonesia training session to the AVEPM special fund to support travel cost of graduate students to scientific conferences. I hope that there will be independent review team to evaluate the eligibility of students for this award. I can work with this team if the board approves this. The amount will be \$5000-10,000.

4. I was asked by USDA:APHIS: International Services to explore options to engage AVEPM in planning training for international veterinarians in Fort Collins. I will try my best to accommodate the needs for this government agency without scarifying on our principles to maintain low cost for the training sessions and less bureaucracy. I will keep the board of directors inform of the outcome.

Mo Salman, Chair
Continuing Education Committee

AVEPM Student Awardees – 2006 CRWAD

Best Poster Presentation in Epidemiology and Animal Health Economics or Food and Environmental Safety sections:

Elizabeth Brown
South Dakota State University
Investigation of European-like porcine circovirus type 2 in the U. S. swine herds

Best Oral Presentations in Epidemiology and Animal Health Economics or Food and Environmental Safety sections:

Veronica Costantini
The Ohio State University
Effect of different swine waste management technologies on detection of animal enteric viruses

Jason Osterstock
Texas A&M University
Heritability estimates and parental effects for paratuberculosis ELISA results in Texas beef cattle

Linda Highfield
Texas A&M University
The influence of different geostatistical estimation techniques on the simulated spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Southern Texas deer populations

Reported by,
Thomas E. Wittum

How to Contact AVEPM

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check for \$20 payable to the AVEPM, should be sent to:

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Columbia, MO 65201-9383

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E-mail: AVEPM@centurytel.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

Newsletter items can be sent to:

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Current and past issues of the AVEPM Newsletter are
also available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Memorial Service for Dr. Calvin W. Schwabe

Dear Colleagues,

A memorial service to honor the life and achievements of Dr. Calvin W. Schwabe is being planned. The service will be held at the University Club located on the University of California, Davis campus on Monday, March 26, 2007 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We invite all members of the epidemiology community to attend and share memories together with his family and colleagues.

For those of you who did not know Dr. Schwabe well, I am appending portions of his In Memoriam published by the University of California below:

Calvin W. Schwabe, widely known as the father of veterinary epidemiology, died in his home on June 24, 2006. Truly a Renaissance Man, in a 52-year career he made important scholarly contributions in a broad array of subjects including epidemiology, diseases of animals transmissible to people, interactions of veterinary and human medicine, parasitic zoonoses and their control, tropical health, public health practice, livestock health in pastoral societies, ancient origins of human and veterinary medicine and the philosophy of science. A member of the faculty of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Cal also was one of eight founding faculty of the School of Medicine.

Dr. Schwabe was born in New Jersey in 1927 and graduated from high school in Cornwall, New York. He was awarded the baccalaureate degree in biology [honors] by Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1948, the MS in zoology by the University of Hawaii in 1950, the DVM [highest honors] by Auburn University in 1954, the MPH in tropical public health in 1955 and the ScD in parasitology and public health in 1956, by Harvard University.

Dr. Schwabe began his career in the School of Medicine at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon in 1956. A year later he founded and chaired a joint Department of Tropical Health in the Schools of Medicine and Public Health at that university and a Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health in 1962. It was in Beirut where he developed an interest in, and a significant program of research on, hydatid disease and other parasitic zoonoses which he continued for his entire professional career. In 1960 as a consultant to the World Health Organization [WHO], he directed its global hydatid disease research and control program. From 1964 to 1966, on leave from the American University, he directed the WHO's parasitic diseases programs.

In 1966, Dr. Schwabe accepted an invitation to join the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine as Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and to establish a Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. He chaired the department, the first of its kind in any veterinary medical school anywhere, which soon became the wellhead of veterinary epidemiology training for the entire world. He also established the Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine degree program, a professional education program emphasizing the principles and strategies of mass disease control and prevention in animals. That program since has trained the leaders in public animal disease control from all over the world. Dr. Schwabe, with Dr. Hans Riemann, also was the instigator of the UCD Graduate Group in Epidemiology.

It is scarcely necessary to address the number of Dr. Schwabe's publications, although his creative output was prodigious. From the basic to the applied sciences, the sphere of influence of his contributions to public health through his writings and professional service was

incalculable in promoting the health of human populations. Of equal gravity were the subjects of his expository writings, so varied and eclectic that they defy encapsulation. From posits on the ineluctable medical symbiosis between humans and animals (Veterinary Medicine and Human Health, 1984) and indelicate musings on improbable food sources (Unmentionable Cuisine, 1988), to his epistemological journeys (The Quick and the Dead: Biomedical Theory in Ancient Egypt, with Andrew Gordon, 2004) and (Science, Spirit and Wholeness: A Quaker Scientist's Sense of God, 2004), Calvin Schwabe saw the world as ultimately more than the storied "one medicine"--he saw it as an ecosystem of planetary proportions constituted of interdependent civilizations and cultures, in which human history and human progress were inexorably linked with the co-evolution of the animal kingdom.

He was no less influential as the progenitor of the modern era of veterinary epidemiology. His illustrious graduate students have gone on to populate the world with a new generation of veterinary epidemiologists. There is scarcely anyone in this field throughout the world today who cannot trace their legacy, either directly or indirectly, to Calvin Schwabe through his tenure at UC Davis.

Dr. Schwabe's sweeping scholarly interests and accomplishments in seemingly disparate fields introduced him to a wonderful array of colleagues in a wide range of disciplines on the UC Davis campus and from throughout the world. The high esteem in which Campus peers held him was manifested when the Academic Senate selected him to be the 42nd annual Faculty Research Lecturer, the highest honor bestowed by that body. Legions of friends, visitors, colleagues and students enjoyed the stimulating conversation and special hospitality of the Schwabe home, where they were introduced to an equally sweeping cuisine emanating from a vast number of recipes collected from all over the world.

The National Library of Medicine in Bethesda Maryland recognized Calvin Schwabe's special contributions to biology and medicine and became the repository for his life papers, which have been placed in its collection on the History of Medicine along with memoirs that he prepared at the Library's request.

If you are interested in attending, and would like additional information or assistance, or would like to convey your thoughts to Dr. Schwabe's family, please feel very welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,

Phil Kass
phkass@ucdavis.edu

Farms May Cut Habitat Renewal Over E. coli Fears

19.dec.06
San Francisco Chronicle (CA)
Glen Martin
<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2006/12/19/MNGVHN291V1.DTL>

The recent scares over deadly bacteria in California produce may hurt farm programs aimed at restoring wildlife habitat and cutting water pollution because such environmental programs could be at odds with "clean farming techniques" promoted by food processors. Those techniques encourage growers to remove grassy areas that are planted to reduce erosion and trap pesticides before they reach waterways. The practices also discourage habitat zones that might attract animals that carry bacteria like E. coli or salmonella.

Some farmers were cited as saying they must opt out of wildlife habitat and water-quality programs: If they don't follow processor guidelines, they won't be able to sell their crops.

John Anderson, a Yolo County farmer who grows native grass seed for use in restoration projects, was quoted as saying, "The processors have been putting some pressure on growers for the past couple of years over vegetated corridors because of worries that they may be sources of animal contamination. But then the E. coli thing happened, and they went from concerned to panic."

The story says that the trend mainly has implications for produce growers in Central California -- where E. coli is the worry -- and for the almond industry in the Central Valley, where concerns over salmonella contamination are high.

A Salinas Valley grower who requested anonymity because of contract negotiations with processors was quoted as calling the current situation "extremely touchy, with the people who put their names on produce bags having the most to lose. One association with a pathogen and they can lose their brand."

The grower was further cited as saying that even if processors allow some wildlife habitat near cropland, they now require farmers to put out large quantities of poisoned bait to kill rodents, adding, "When we plant hedgerows now, we have to use the bait stations or we lose our contracts. Later, you see birds of prey perched over the bait. They eat mice sluggish from the poison and get poisoned themselves. It kind of defeats the whole purpose of putting in the habitat."

Trevor Suslow, an agricultural extension research specialist with UC Davis, was cited as saying that food-safety field audits also can have a chilling effect on habitat programs, adding that, a processor representative "will come out and look at a field and possibly give a certain (area) a negative score because environmental projects such as wetlands or filter strips were nearby. So the message is, if you want to sell to Company X, you'll take out the projects."

The story cites a pamphlet on "good agricultural practices" from the Almond Board, which states that, "All animals, wild and domestic, including mammals, birds, reptiles and insects, are potential sources of contamination. ... It is important to minimize attraction, harborage and potential for contamination." Anderson said a farmer reading those words comes away with one message: Rip out anything that can attract wild creatures.

Suslow was further cited as saying it's unclear whether the threat is real, adding, "But in the absence of data, I'm inclined to think the benefits of restoration outweigh risk from additional contamination sources."

The story says that preliminary research indicates concerns about wildlife as vectors for pathogens may be misdirected. An analysis from UC Santa Cruz concludes that the strain of bacterium associated with the recent spinach poisonings -- E. coli O157:H7 -- is rare in wild birds and mammals, and resides most abundantly in the digestive tracts of grain-fed cattle.

Farmers shouldn't be cast as villains in the dispute, said Kay Mercer, a coordinator with the Agricultural Watershed Coalition.

100 Years Later, the Food Industry is Still "The Jungle"

02.jan.07

New York Times

Adam Cohen

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/02/opinion/02tue4.html>

Nothing in "The Jungle" sticks with the reader quite like what went into the sausages. There was the rotting ham that could no longer be sold as ham. There were the

rat droppings, rat poison and whole poisoned rats. Most chilling, there were the unnamed things "in comparison with which a poisoned rat was a tidbit."

Upton Sinclair wrote "The Jungle" as a labor exposé. He hoped that the book, which was billed as "the 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' of wage slavery," would lead to improvements for the people to whom he dedicated it, "the workingmen of America." But readers of "The Jungle" were less appalled by Sinclair's accounts of horrific working conditions than by what they learned about their food. "I aimed at the public's heart," he famously declared, "and by accident I hit it in the stomach."

"The Jungle," and the campaign that Sinclair waged after its publication, led directly to passage of a landmark federal food safety law, which took effect 100 years ago this week. Sinclair awakened a nation not just to the dangers in the food supply, but to the central role government has to play in keeping it safe. But as the poisonings of spinach eaters and Taco Bell customers recently made clear, the battle is far from over - and in recent years, we have been moving in the wrong direction.

When "The Jungle" was published, the public reaction was instantaneous. Outraged readers deluged President Theodore Roosevelt with letters. Roosevelt was ambivalent, but he invited Sinclair to the White House for lunch, and promised to send his labor commissioner and assistant Treasury secretary to Chicago to investigate.

Sinclair settled into a New York City hotel and started a publicity campaign. He wrote articles with titles like "Campaign Against the Wholesale Poisoners of the Nation's Food," and released more stomach-churning details.

As a result of Sinclair's crusade, Congress passed the Food and Drug Act, which had been effectively blocked by industry. At the start of 1907, it became a federal crime to sell adulterated food or drugs, and the new law set up a system of federal inspections. Food had to be labeled, and it was illegal to misstate the contents. Future laws would expand on this newly declared government responsibility to ensure the safety of the nation's food supply.

In recent years, the momentum has shifted. Since the Reagan era, conservatives have tried to turn "government regulation" into an epithet. Books like "The Death of Common Sense," a 1990's best-seller, have twisted the facts to argue that laws like a New York ordinance requiring restaurants to clean dishes in a way that kills salmonella are somehow an infringement on liberty.

Food safety has been particularly hard-hit by this anti-regulatory climate. Harmful bacteria are rampant in meatpacking plants and in produce fields, but government oversight is eroding. The Bush administration has slashed the number of Food and Drug Administration inspectors, and it has installed a former lobbyist for the cattle industry as the Agriculture Department's chief of staff.

But this is an unusually promising moment for food safety. Wide media attention was given to last fall's spinach contamination, which killed three and injured more than 200 in 26 states, and to the Taco Bell food

poisonings, which made dozens of people ill. And Democrats have recaptured Congress, which should hold hearings to get to the bottom of those recent food disasters and to explore what the next ones are likely to be. It should push for larger budgets for food inspections and, as one Democratic-sponsored bill calls for, create a single federal agency with responsibility for food safety. The answer, Sinclair believed, was always the same: providing the American people with the gritty truth that they needed to protect themselves. "The source and fountain-head of genuine reform in this matter," Sinclair insisted, "is an enlightened public opinion."

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

See the AVEPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/> for details and the most current listings.

Distance MPH Degree for Veterinarians

I wanted to let you and your colleagues in the Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine know about an opportunity for veterinarians to obtain an MPH degree while continuing to work in their current job. Please see below for the press release. If you have a newsletter or list serve that this could be shared with, we would appreciate you getting the opportunity to those who could benefit. I am a graduate of the program and can attest to its quality and applicability. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The University of Iowa, College of Public Health, in collaboration with the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, will offer a distance-learning Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program for practicing veterinarians beginning June 2007. The majority of courses will be available completely at-a-distance and may be taken at the learner's convenience. "Course availability at-a-distance is critical for many veterinarians who are unable to leave their practice location for extended time periods," said Mary L. Aquilino, Ph.D., assistant dean and director of the UI Master of Public Health program. "The combination of summer on-campus institutes and Web-based instruction offers a practical blend of on-campus and distance-learning opportunities." The program was developed in response to recent national and world events calling for public health preparedness in areas where public health and veterinary medicine overlap, including zoonotic diseases, food security and foodborne diseases, bioterrorism, and environmental health. An Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges task force has identified an urgent need for veterinarians trained in public health. The distance-learning MPH will play a crucial role in meeting this need. "This distance-learning

MPH program provides practicing veterinarians with an excellent opportunity to contribute to the national need for more public practice veterinarians," said James A. Roth, DVM., PhD, director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health and at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. Veterinarians with an MPH degree can look forward to employment opportunities in local, state and federal health, agricultural and environmental agencies, colleges and universities, the private sector food industry, the military, and international public health organizations. A degree in veterinary medicine from an accredited U.S. college of veterinary medicine is a prerequisite for the program. Students will be enrolled in the UI College of Public Health. Selected faculty from the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine will provide instruction as adjunct faculty of the UI. For more information about the distance-learning MPH program, contact Aquilino at 319-384-5396 in Iowa City, or Danelle Bickett-Weddle, DVM, MPH at 515-294-1492 in Ames. STORY SOURCE: University of Iowa College of Public Health Office of Communications, 4257 Westlawn, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

Link to the full press release is available here:

<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/newsletter/rd.asp?rlsId=324>

For more information about the degree, please visit:

http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/mph/about/professional_programs/mph_vets.html

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The best medicine is prevention...check out the Risk Management Tools at:
<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM>

POSITIONS

Space does not permit a listing of the many opportunities for graduate study and employment. Please visit the AVEPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/> for the most current listings.

SUGGESTED READING

Determining the Prevalence of Escherichia coli O157 in Cattle and Beef from the Feedlot to the Cooler

December 2006
Journal of Food Protection Volume 69, Number 12 pp. 2824-2827(4)
Woerner, D.R.; Ransom, J.R.; Sofos, J.N.; Dewell, G.A.; Smith, G.C.; Salman, M.D.; Belk, K.E.

Abstract:

Prevalence of Escherichia coli O157 on cattle entering the slaughter floor may range from 10 to 70%. This study was conducted to determine the effect of E. coli O157 prevalence in fecal pats collected from feedlot pen floors on subsequent E. coli O157 prevalence on carcasses at various points in the slaughter process. Fecal pats from the feedlot pen floor were collected within 3 days before slaughter. During cattle processing at the slaughter facility, additional samples were collected from the hide, from the colon, and from the carcasses before and after evisceration and after final decontamination. Of 15 lots (a group of cattle from the same pen from a feedlot) sampled, 87% had at least one positive fecal pat from the feedlot floor, 47% had a positive hide sample, 73% had a positive colon/fecal sample, and 47% had a positive carcass sample preevisceration; however, only 8% of lots had a positive carcass sample postevisceration or after final intervention. Of the total samples tested (n = 1,328), 24.7, 14.7, 27.6, 10.1, 1.4, and 0.3% of fecal pats from the feedlot floor, hide, colon, preevisceration, postevisceration, and final intervention samples, respectively, were positive for E. coli O157. Pens with

greater than 20% positive fecal pats from the feedlot floor had 25.5% hide, 51.4% colon, and 14.3, 2.9, and 0.7% carcass samples positive at preevisceration, at postevisceration, and after final intervention, respectively. However, fecal pats from feedlot floor samples that contained less than 20% positive fecal samples showed lower pathogen prevalence, with 5.0% hide, 7.5% colon, and 6.3, 0, and 0% carcass positive samples at preevisceration, postevisceration, and post-final intervention, respectively. Data from this study can be used as part of risk assessment processes in order to identify mitigation strategies to minimize prevalence of E. coli O157 on fresh beef carcasses.

60 Years of Public Health Science at CDC

MMWR Supplement
Volume 55, No. Supplement
December 22, 2006

In 2006, CDC celebrates its 60th anniversary. From the agency's relatively humble beginnings in 1946 as a malaria-control agency through its rapid growth in mission and expansion of staff and public health partnerships by 2006, science has been the foundation for everything CDC does. Public health science comprises numerous disciplines that, combined, are more than simply the addition of their parts. This synergy is public health's unique scientific strength.

This supplemental issue of MMWR celebrates CDC's scientific strength and diversity by describing the public health contributions of 11 disciplines. It begins with the fundamental, cross-cutting disciplines of laboratory sciences and epidemiology, then focuses on disciplines

new to public health, yet essential to CDC's success. Although this supplement only partially illustrates the variety of disciplines contributing to public health, the 11 articles provide a flavor of public health's scientific diversity and strength. They highlight contributions of many disciplines to each of CDC's health protection goals and emphasize how synthesizing scientific information is essential to impact health and maximize scientific investments.

EPIDEMIOLOGY: Indonesia Taps Village Wisdom to Fight Bird Flu

Dennis Normile
Science 5 January 2007: Vol. 315. no. 5808, pp. 30 - 33

SUMMARY: Veterinarians Christine Jost and Jeffrey Mariner pioneered participatory epidemiology to counter rinderpest in Africa and are now applying the technique to bird flu in Indonesia. Participatory epidemiology is Indonesia's first step on a long road to controlling avian influenza.

SCIENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT: Poverty Reduction Through Animal Health

Brian Perry and Keith Sones
Science Jan 19 2007: 333-334.

SUMMARY: The global community needs to give greater thought and investment to building scientific capacity in animal health research within developing countries.

Good Epidemiological Practice (GEP)

Jørn Olsen has been modifying the Epidemiological Association (IEA) - European Epidemiology Federation's document "Good epidemiological practice(GEP). Proper conduct in epidemiological research." It can be found in the following addresses:

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea/GEP07.htm>

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea/Download/GEPjan07.pdf>

You can comment the document straight to him at: jo@ucla.edu

Write "GEP" to the subject row of your message.

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