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PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

National summit to examine policy, education and economics of antimicrobial stewardship

Leaders in the veterinary and human health communities, the livestock sector, consumer groups and federal and state regulatory agencies will gather in Washington, D.C. Jan. 20-21 to discuss policy, education and economic issues of the stewardship of antimicrobial drug use in food animals.

The national summit, Antibiotic Stewardship: Policy, Education and Economics, will convene at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. The summit continues through Thursday, Jan. 21.

A collaboration of Farm Foundation, NFP, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), the Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges (AAVMC) and USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS), the summit will highlight the diverse issues involved in stewardship of antimicrobial drug use. The program is targeted to livestock producers, feed suppliers, veterinarians, academics and government agency staff. The summit is an opportunity to advance the conversation on the industry’s adaptation to the changing landscape of antimicrobial drug use. A full agenda of the summit is available at the Farm Foundation website.

Catherine Woteki, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, is featured among the speakers. She will present a keynote address at noon on Thursday, Jan. 21. Other featured speakers include:

- Bernadette Dunham, DVM, Ph.D., Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration;
- William Flynn, DVM, FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine;
- Larry Granger, DVM, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;
- Steve Solomon, MD, Global Public Health Consulting;
- Liz Wagstrom, DVM, National Pork Producers Council;
- Christine Hoang, DVM, MPH, CPH, American Veterinary Medical Association;
- Ashley Predith, Ph.D., President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; and
- Livestock producers, feed suppliers, veterinarians and university leaders from across the nation.

The summit will include the release of a report by Farm Foundation of findings from 12 workshops conducted across the nation on new FDA policies regarding the use of medically-important
antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals. The workshops were an opportunity for livestock producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to broaden their understanding of the new policies, and for producers, veterinarians and feed suppliers to give feedback to FDA and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on the management challenges of the policy implementation.

The summit will also focus on how agriculture and animal health can be full partners with the human medical community in a fully integrated national action plan to reduce and mitigate antibiotic resistance. The basis of these discussions is a report, Addressing Antibiotic Resistance, issued in October 2015 by a joint task force of APLU and AAVMC.

ERS will lead sessions examining the economics of antibiotic use in U.S. livestock production, as well as the interaction of farming practices and the requirements of food marketers.

There is no fee to attend the summit but registration is requested and can be completed online by CLICKING HERE.

Preceding the summit on the morning of Jan. 20 will be a Farm Foundation Forum on the topic: Antibiotic Use in Humans and Animals. Participating in that discussion will be Terry Coffey of Smithfield Foods; Steve Solomon of Global Public Health Consulting; Jerome Lyman, retired executive at McDonald’s Corporation; and Kathy Talkington of Pew Charitable Trusts.

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Farm Foundation, NFP serves as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. The Foundation does not lobby or advocate. The Foundation’s 83-year reputation for objectivity allows it to bring together diverse stakeholders for discussions on economic and public policy issues. www.farmfoundation.org

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities is a research, policy and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. With a membership of 235 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU’s agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement. www.aplu.org

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges provides leadership for and promotes excellence in academic veterinary medicine to prepare the veterinary workforce with the scientific knowledge and skills required to meet societal needs through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. www.aavmc.org

USDA’s Economic Research Service has a mission to inform and enhance public and private decision making on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment and rural development. With more than 300 employees, the Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. www.ers.usda.gov

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