

## **REDUCING NATURAL AND INTRODUCED BIOLOGICAL RISKS**

**Jones W. Bryan, D.V.M.**

The realization that Emerging, Emergency and Foreign Animal Diseases are introduced into countries worldwide on an increasing basis, and the economic and psychological trauma, as well as the threat to our food supply and countries defense, are issues that have come to the attention of all concerned with our countries defense and well-being, raises these concerns to a level that requires this to become a high priority initiative.

There are many methods through education and practices to reduce the risk of either naturally or terrorist induced outbreaks. Though the process of handling would be similar, an attack generated by bioterrorism might establish concurrent outbreaks in numerous locations, may be involving differing organisms and species, that could substantially overwhelm our response capabilities in personnel, laboratories, technical and support personnel.

Those areas where we might develop capabilities to best respond, eradicate or possibly prevent such a disaster are ones we might explore as this opportunity.

Biosecurity education, regulatory authority, communication, diagnostic capabilities, response times, quarantine, movement of animals and issues like Animal ID, Premise ID, GIS Mapping, Reportable Disease are some of the potential areas where prevention and eradication may be effected.

I feel the opportunity for enhancement of our capabilities to reduce the risk factors relative to this issue that has major concern to the defense as well as health and well-being of our human and animal populous defines our roles in this endeavor.

There are numerous examples of the severity of outbreaks intentionally, and we can appreciate the impact of these disasters, and take a hard look at our protocols, policies, authorities and ability to respond to a like situation.