



MBAH News & Views

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Dr. Jim Watson

Dr. Brigid Elchos

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Training for Veterinary Accreditation
- Foaming Equipment Exercise
- Master Trainer Class
- Dog and Cat Behavior/ Handling Class

Changes at the Board of Animal Health

The anniversary date of my employment with the Board of Animal Health is next month. As I reflect back on the last seven years, I cannot believe my good fortune in being able to work for this agency. So many things have happened; thankfully, only a few have been literal disasters. Yet even disasters provide opportunity for change, growth and renewal.

Our state veterinarian, Dr. Jim Watson, is a fine example of how we continue to grow individually and as an agency. The reason I am writing this opening article instead of Dr. Watson is because he is currently participating in a month long military officer training program. We appreciate his confidence in our ability as an agency to protect the health of Mississippi's livestock and poultry resources while he is away.

As Dr. Watson's deputy, I particularly appreciate the opportunity to support him and to work more closely with you all. **Please don't hesitate to call if I can be of assistance. My cell phone number is 601-953-3800; our agency office number is 601-359-1170; and we have a toll-free reporting hotline (888) 646-8731. You can also reach me by email at brigid@mdac.state.ms.us.** Thankfully, Dr. Watson will be back in the office around September 7th.

Lastly, we are in the midst of another sort of change and renewal. Within this newsletter you will have an opportunity to read about the personnel changes that have occurred at the MBAH in recent months. Please help us honor the people that have left us for new adventures and welcome our new additions, including a new baby!

*Brigid Elchos, RN, DVM, DACVPM
Deputy State Veterinarian
State Public Health Veterinarian*



Dr. Jim Watson presents a plaque to **Dr. Terry Kiser** for 14 years of service to the MBAH.

Dr. Betsy Lipscomb received a certificate honoring her appointment by the governor to the MBAH representing the Beef Cattle and Producer Industry.

Mitchell and Sprayberry Retire

To Donnie and Quay,

I started to work for the MBAH in July of 1970. You were hired not long after me. I was assigned to the Central part of the state, while you were in North Mississippi. No email, no cell phones back then, so we only saw each other about once a year when a state-wide meeting was called. The only reason we had that meeting was so Jim Buck Ross could chew on our butts about why we still hadn't gotten rid of Bangs.

I've never known the Board of Animal Health without you two. We've been through it all. Testing cattle, and a hog or two, for Brucellosis; on farms and in the sale barns. A lot of sweat, a lot of dust, a lot of farmers saying the Bangs would be here when we're all dead and gone.

Well, we ain't dead and **there ain't no Bangs. Besides that, there ain't no TB, no Pseudorabies, or Hog Cholera either.** Good job, boys. A job well done. You can't put a dollar value on what that's worth to the livestock industry of Mississippi.

Enjoy your retirement my good friends, you've earned every cent.

Ronnie White



Donny Mitchell and **Quay Sprayberry** received retirement plaques from the State Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Watson.



MBAH employees gathered to honor the two retirees.

Training for Veterinary Accreditation

USDA Makes Four Training Modules Available for Veterinary Accreditation

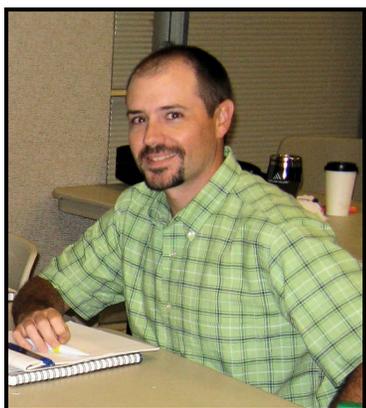
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced the availability of four APHIS-approved supplemental training (AAST) Web modules as part of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP).

More than 57,000 U.S. veterinarians who have elected to participate in the enhanced NVAP have been assigned initial accreditation renewal dates ranging from 2013 to 2015. As part of NVAP updates which went into effect Feb. 1, 2010, Category I accredited veterinarians must complete three (3) units of AAST to renew their accreditation, and Category II accredited veterinarians must complete six (6) units of AAST to renew their accreditation. Each AAST module represents one unit of training, and takes approximately one hour to complete. APHIS is planning to make six additional modules available in September 2011, four in March 2012 and another four in September 2012.

The first four AAST modules are now available on the NVAP homepage free of charge online or at participating veterinary meetings and conventions. Six-digit national accreditation numbers are needed to document completion of the Web based training. In addition to Web based AAST modules, printed AAST modules may be purchased by using the supplemental training materials order form available on the NVAP website at a cost of \$20 per module. Veterinarians without Web access can get printed module order forms at their veterinary services area office.

At the completion of each module, accredited veterinarians should print and complete a module completion certificate. It is essential that accredited veterinarians retain their certificates, as they will be needed for accreditation renewal, and may be requested during periodic training audits.

The NVAP is a voluntary program. Veterinarians who participate in the NVAP must work according to the federal standards for accredited veterinarians. Participation in the NVAP allows private sector veterinarians to offer services to their clients such as certifying animal and herd health. Companion animal practitioners can use their accreditation to certify companion animals for domestic and international movement. Information about the accreditation program can be found on the NVAP website at www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/.



Congratulations to Jesse Carter for his promotion to the position of North Mississippi Field Director.

He replaces Donnie Mitchell, who retired at the end of June with 38 years with the agency. Jesse will be responsible for the supervision of MBAH field personnel and activities north of Interstate 20.

Jesse began his career with the MBAH in August 2008, serving as Animal Health Programs Coordinator. Before joining the MBAH, Jesse earned a Bachelor and Masters Degree from Mississippi State University majoring in Veterinary Science.

Foaming Equipment Exercise



Jesse Carter takes a look at foaming equipment.

Dr. Jim Watson, State Veterinarian and Director of the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH), invited personnel from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDACS) to MS to demonstrate their foam producing equipment that had been fitted with a FoamPro 2001 proportioning unit.

Although this type of equipment was originally designed as a fire-fighting tool, the NCDACS team leader, Jim Howard, has adapted it to produce the exact type of foam necessary for depopulation of poultry during disease outbreaks and natural disasters. This capability provides a mechanism for entire houses of poultry to be euthanized with only one or two workers entering the house, thereby, exposing a limited number of people to a possible zoonotic disease.

On Tuesday, June 28th, the NCDACS team instructed the MBAH field personnel on the assembly and operation of their Poultry Foam Euthanasia Equipment. Howard was assisted by two of his co-workers, Allen Broadwell and Kevin Carpenter.

After demonstration of the NCDACS equipment was completed, Howard allowed MBAH personnel to connect the FoamPro unit to the MBAH foaming equipment. They were able to produce several thousand cubic feet of foam into one of the barns on the fairgrounds.

Others observing the exercise included representatives of the poultry industry, the MS Poultry Association, and US Environmental Services.

Everyone was impressed by the improvement in the quality of foam produced by the FoamPro equipment and the enhanced capability this unit will provide the MBAH.

*Ronnie White
Emergency Services Coordinator*



The MBAH's **Dr. Bob Warren**, along with NCDACS' Jim Howard, tested the Poultry Foam Euthanasia equipment.



Ronnie White, with the MBAH, and Dr. Tim Cummings inspected the foaming equipment.

MBAH Employees Attend Master Trainer Class



Guess which MBAH inspector I am!

On June 14th and 15th, the MBAH, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, and MSU Extension Service hosted a Master Trainer course on Animal Disease Response at the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond.

The training was funded by the Department of Homeland Security, and presented by the AgPreparedness instructional staff from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The program was designed so individuals who successfully completed the course could in turn provide this instruction to Training Officers in other agencies and organizations.

Participants were instructed in the concepts of Biosecurity and Quarantine, Personal Protective Equipment, Euthanasia and Disposal, and Cleaning and Disinfection.

This course provided critical information needed to control and minimize the affects of an animal disease outbreak in our community and/or state. In addition, the course provided an avenue for those trained to share this information with those in other disciplines needed to assist when an outbreak occurs.

*Ronnie White
Emergency Services Coordinator*

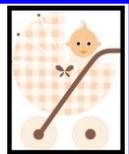


Brandon McMillan recently joined the MBAH as a Livestock Inspector.

Brandon, his wife, and two daughters live in Guntown. He is a graduate of Mississippi State with a bachelor's degree in Animal and Dairy Sciences.

Welcome Brandon!

Congrats Jody & Heather!



Jody Dolan, an inspector with the MBAH, and his wife, Heather, are the proud new parents of Macy Lynn Dolan.

Macy Lynn was born on August 26th, weighing 7lbs. 11oz. and 19 1/2 inches long.

The Mississippi State Equine Association (MSEA) is the State of Mississippi's official member of the American Horse Council in Washington, D.C.

MSEA is a 501 (c) 3 organization and is a sponsor of the Mississippi Special Olympics, the Mississippi Burn Center and other special riding events such as Mississippi Therapeutic Riding activities.

The Board of MSEA has decided to endow a scholarship dedicated to a Veterinarian School junior or senior, or a Mississippi Animal Science junior or senior at Mississippi Sate University.

The endowment will require a \$25,000 investment from MSEA and its supporters. MSEA has provided more than half of the requirement to MSU and encourages other equestrians to assist the equine endowment by contributing to the Mississippi State Equine Association scholarship at MSU. Donations may be mailed to the following address: MSEA, P.O. Box 5888, Brandon, MS 39047. For more information contact MSEA at 601-750-1560.



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The Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) serves as the administration agency for the “I Care for Animals” car tag fund.

These funds are distributed to animal shelters and humane organizations around the state which have been approved for grant funds by a review panel and the Board. This money goes directly back into Mississippi communities, normally to assist in the spay/neuter of dogs and cats.

By purchasing an “I Care for Animals” car tag, you will help reduce the homeless pet population in Mississippi.



The MBAH’s **Ginger Williams** recently moved to another state agency.

We will miss her positive attitude, cheerful voice and contagious laughter.

Good luck Ginger!

www.mbah.state.ms.us



The MBAH, in conjunction with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), recently sponsored a Dog and Cat Behavior/ Handling class in Raymond. The class was a joint training effort between the Mississippi Animal Response Team and the Louisiana State Animal Response Team.

Members of MART and LSART, many of whom were animal control officers, were provided information and hands-on training for handling dogs and cats safely and appropriately in various situations, including disasters. The class curriculum was designed by the National Animal Control Association (NACA), and the class was the first of its kind in the U.S. Nicole Montano, the Lead Animal Protection Officer in Spokane County, Washington, and instructor with NACA, taught the class.



Thanks to Dick Green with IFAW for his leadership in this project and to IFAW for their sponsorship. Special thanks to Elmo Collum with the Mississippi State Extension Service for hosting the class, and to David Marcantel of LSART for assisting in instruction and providing animal handling equipment. We also appreciate the Brookhaven Animal Rescue League and the Mississippi Animal Rescue League for providing the dogs and cats needed for hands-on instruction.

Beth Adcock
MART Coordinator