



Fish Health Section



The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.afs-fhs.org/>

FHS NEWS

NEW WEBSITE!!!: www.afs-fhs.org

PILOT ON-LINE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES (JS FOOTT)

Two on-line CE modules are now available at the AFS-FHS new website:

AFS-FHS.org (Continuing Education tab “on-line CE from FHS”). The modules are:

1. PCR for Aquatic Animal Health- Dr. M. Purcell

- ▶ PCR basics
- ▶ Commonly used PCR assays
- ▶ Advantages and disadvantages of PCR
- ▶ Good laboratory practices
- ▶ Analytical validation
- ▶ Sampling and template preparation
- ▶ Primers
- ▶ Standards, controls and normalization
- ▶ Quantitative PCR – in depth

2. Histology module 1

- ▶ Processing samples
- ▶ Normal Fish Kidney
- ▶ Normal Fish Liver

These modules are free, use self-assessment tests, and are designed to be completed in 90 minutes or less. The FHS requests feedback on the module format, content, and teaching effectiveness to determine if the Aquatic Animal Health professional community supports such training. The proposed concept is that each module would be in a standard format (web, DVD, workbook), focused on a single AAH laboratory topic (e.g. molecular confirmation techniques, fish cell culture), and designed to complement the latest AFS – OIE methodology and current literature. To obtain module certification, the applicant would need to pass a written test ($\geq 75\%$ score). Potentially, some modules would also require a proficiency practical (e.g. isolate and identify several unknowns).

Take a look and pass the word!

POLICY AND POSITION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (PPDC) NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS!!!

The AFS-FHS Policy and Position Development Committee (PPDC) needs more volunteers!!

Please let us know what topics you would like to help the AFS-FHS to explore for policy development.

The PPDC has identified several issues that we believe are in need of policy analysis and development to keep the AFS-FHS engaged and involved in policy issues across the country. Please let us know if you have any other additional topics of interest. Our list includes:

Promotion of the Engagement and Commitment of Resources by all three Involved US Federal Agencies in the Implementation of the NAAHP

The PPDC believes this to be an extremely important position by the Section and the Society. Three Federal agencies have authorities and jurisdiction on aquatic animal health in the United States. We believe that a clear and strong message should be sent by our profession to those agencies to encourage continued and enhanced cooperative efforts to ensure the best aquatic animal health possible. What are your thoughts about making such a policy statement?

Role of the AFS-FHS Bluebook in the US National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP)

The Inspection Manual of the Bluebook is already recognized by and shared with the 3 Federal Agencies involved in the National Aquatic Animal Health Policy. Does the FHS need to clarify its position on and support of the use of the Bluebook in the NAAHP and its implementation?

The Development of an Aquatic Animal Laboratory Network

This concept is already being worked on by the Federal Agencies. Does the FHS have an interest in the development of this proposed network? Should we encourage and support an increase in this activity?

Appropriate Roles for Fish Health Professionals in Aquatic Medicine

We have veterinarians, certified fish health inspectors, certified fish pathologists, and un-certified professionals with years of experience in aquatic animal health. Who is qualified to perform which roles in fish inspection, fish diagnosis, and fish disease treatment?

Improvement in Approaches for Drug Approval in Aquaculture

Should the FHS provide support and information that can help improve the understanding of the use and risks for aquaculture drugs at the US and international level? What information is most needed to improve or support the current process?

Improvement and Cooperation in Fish Health Training in Veterinary Curricula

There are currently a limited number of Veterinary Schools that have strong curricula in aquatic medicine. Should the FHS advocate for increased aquatic animal health training? Should we approach other national and international groups to issue a joint position paper?

The Policy and Position Development Committee will be working hard on developing and refining this list of proposals. If you are fired up about any of these proposals and are motivated enough to share your ideas and comments or to provide more background on any of these, we would like to hear from you. Anyone who is interested in contributing to the development of AFS-FHS policy regarding these issues and/or has ideas for additional issues that should be addressed, the PPDC would appreciate your assistance. This is a way to influence your Section, your Society, and others outside of the American Fisheries Society.

Please email Guppy Blair, PPDC Current Chair at Marilyn_j_Blair@fws.gov to sign up for the policy issues that you would like to participate in and/or to suggest additional issues by the deadline of June 1, 2012. Thank you!

FHS NOMINATIONS REMINDER

The time has come to nominate individuals for our 2012 section election. Positions open to election include positions in the Professional Standards, Technical Standards, Policy/Position Development, and Nominating and Balloting committees as well as Vice President. This is a great opportunity for seasoned professionals to help lead the section, and young professionals to become more involved. Nominations can be made for oneself or someone you know. The duties of all positions as well as a list of individuals currently serving as section officers or as committee members can be found at <http://www.afs-fhs.org/committees.php>. You can also visit the official website at <http://www.afs-fhs.org/>. All nominees must be FHS members and, if elected, they must also be an AFS member during their tenure as the committee chairperson or as a section officer. For a person to serve on the Professional Standards committee they must also be a certified Fish Health Inspector, a certified Fish Pathologist or a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Nominations will be accepted until 4 PM (CST) April 30, 2012. If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions or would like to nominate someone please contact me.

Thanks,

John Drennan
Chair, AFS/FHS Nominating and Balloting Committee
Merck Animal Health
21401 West Center Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022
Tel: (402) 289-6321
Fax: (402) 289-6082
Email: john.drennan@merck.com

2012 AFS-FHS ANNUAL MEETING – DEADLINES APPROACHING!
JULY 31-AUGUST 3, LA CROSSE WI

<http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/fish/index.htm>

You are most cordially invited to attend the AFS-Fish Health Section Meeting July 31-August 3 2012 in La Crosse, WI!

In an effort to reduce everyone's carbon footprint for attending this meeting to a size 3 (narrow), we have synchronized watches with the following groups who will hold their annual meetings on July 30 and/or 31.

[The Great Lakes Fish Health Committee](#)
[The Drug Approval Workshop](#)
[The Veterinary Workshop on Fish Regulatory Medicine](#)

The link above will take you to the home page for all four events. From there you can link to information about each meeting. You may register on-line for the Drug Approval Workshop and AFS-FHS meetings separately, or save \$\$ and attend both meetings for a reduced fee.

Register for the Veterinary Workshop on Fish Regulatory Medicine directly with Dr Gretchen May at WI DATCP. This workshop is free, thanks to a grant from USDA-APHIS.

There is no formal registration to attend the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee meeting.

[AFS-FHS Deadlines:](#)

June 1 for hotel reservations

June 15 for abstracts (note that images or graphics can be appended to the abstracts)

In an effort to go mostly paperless, abstracts will be posted on the website well in advance of the meeting and can be downloaded, saved electronically or printed as you like. There will be a short paper program available at the meeting.

To appreciate [science as art](#) and the "way coolness" of micrographs and other photographic images taken of our daily work, please bring prints of your favorites for display at the meeting. Special prizes will be awarded, and everyone is a winner!

Enjoy a [cruise on the Mississippi River](#) the evening of August 2, complete with Wisconsin's finest beverages and local specialty snacks. The boat has room for 60 people, so sign up early!

Details are being finalized for the [continuing education course](#) on August 3:

**Molecular Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animal Pathogens:
Regulatory Perspectives, Current Methods and Emerging Technologies**

- a very timely topic for aquatic animal health professionals, conservation agency administrators and fisheries managers

All of this is happening at the beautiful Radisson Hotel in downtown La Crosse. The hotel has generously provided single room rates of \$70 (a king-size bed) and double room rates of \$100 (two queen-size beds) per night. [Please use the promotional code](#) listed on the website when making your reservation. The deadline for hotel reservations is [June 1](#). Rooms may be available after June 1 but the rates above are not guaranteed.

The co-sponsors have worked hard to make this a fantastic week of meetings and we look forward to seeing you all in La Crosse!

The 2012 Western Fish Disease Workshop – DEADLINES!

Boise, Idaho
June 13-14, 2012



The Idaho Department of Fish and Game invites you to attend the 53rd Western Fish Disease Workshop on June 13-14, 2012 at The Grove Hotel, in Boise, Idaho. Now is the time to reserve the dates on your calendar and plan to make your room reservations.

Important Dates:

- May 12, 2012** Deadline for reduced rate room reservations
- May 15, 2012** Deadline for student travel award submission
- June 1, 2012 Deadline for abstract submission (see below)
- June 8, 2012 Deadline for online registration

Link to WFDW website:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/workshops/?getPage=297>

Registration link:

<https://s01.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1535320182300&P=15353201911424342300>

Workshop Costs:

- Early Registration before June 8th - \$200
- Registration after June 8th - \$220
- Continuing Education Session - \$75

Lunch and Social are included in the CE sign up. And Breakfast, Lunch, and Banquet for the 13th of June. Last Day Lunch only and all of that is included with registration. The banquet option in the 123sign-up is for guests/spouses.

Continuing Education Session: Tuesday, June 12th on Fish Nutrition, Feeds and Feeding – More information to follow. LUNCH AND SOCIAL INCLUDED!

Hotel Reservations: The Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho www.grovehotelboise.com. For reservations call 1-888-961-5000 and identify yourself as part of the “Western Fish Disease Workshop”. Or for online reservations go to: https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_login.cfm?hotelID=76224 and use Attendee code: WFDW.

Room rate: \$77.00/night

Contact Information: If you have any questions please contact:

Doug Munson
1800 Trout Rd.
Eagle, Idaho 83616
Phone: 208-939-2413
Email: doug.munson@idfg.idaho.gov

Dr. Phil Mamer
1800 Trout Rd.
Eagle, Idaho 83616
Phone: 208-939-2413
phil.mamer@idfg.idaho.gov

Students: Students are eligible to compete for the Best Student Paper Award. This will be a monetary award.

Student Travel Award to be presented to one student to help cover costs associated with attending the WFDW to present a paper in the aquatic animal health field. Following the submission of the required materials, each student's application is judged based on the quality of the abstract, significance of interest in the research, academic achievement, professional achievement and financial need. The following documentation is required by May 15th: 1) Letter of application and statement of any special financial circumstances (i.e., not supported by a stipend, etc.) 2) Letter of recommendation from the student's major professor; 3) Copy of abstract of paper to be presented. All supporting material should be emailed to doug.burton@idfg.idaho.gov or sent to Doug Burton, Eagle Fish Health Laboratory, and 1800 Trout Road, Eagle, Idaho, 83616.

ABSTRACTS DUE JUNE 1, 2012

Please prepare abstracts in Microsoft Word format and email as an attachment to Doug Burton (doug.burton@idfg.idaho.gov) by June 1, 2012. Power Point will be the format for all oral presentations and we anticipate 15 min time slots.

Guidelines for Abstract Preparation

1. Abstract must fit on single side page with margins set at 1.5" on all sides.
2. Use Times New Roman 12 pitch font
3. Center the title and use all capitals. Genus and species names should be in italics.
4. Provide a double space between the title and authors.

5. For each author provide first name, middle initial and last name. Use bold script for author presenting the paper. Follow each name with a numeric superscript to denote affiliations.
6. Provide a single space between authors and affiliations. Affiliations should include mailing address plus zip code and email for presenting author.
7. Provide double space between affiliations and body of the abstract.
8. Provide a double space between the body of the abstract and an indication of whether you prefer oral presentation or poster.
9. If you are a student presenter and wish to be considered for the Best Student Paper Award, write student after Oral Presentation.

Recreational Opportunities:

Boise is located in the Treasure Valley of southern Idaho and is uniquely situated within easy driving distance of wilderness mountains and wild and scenic rivers.

Contact Information: If you have any questions please contact:

Doug Munson

1800 Trout Rd.

Eagle, Idaho 83616

Email: doug.munson@idfg.idaho.gov

Dr. Phil Mamer

1800 Trout Rd.

Eagle, Idaho 83616

phil.mamer@idfg.idaho.gov

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/meeting.php>

XII ENBRAPOA (Encontro Brasileiro de Patologistas de Organismos Aquáticos)

September 02 and 05 of 2012

city of Bonito, located on the Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul.

See: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJYl_6q5zeY

More details on the website www.abrapoa.org.br/enbrapoa2012, that will be available soon or through the email secretaria@abrapoa.org.br

All the Best,

Organizing Committee

JOBS

LECTURER IN FISH IMMUNOLOGY/FISH HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN – see attached Lecturer in Fish Immunology.pdf – deadline May 4!!

LABORATORY MANAGER, BC CENTER FOR AQUATIC HEALTH SCIENCES – see attached LaboratoryManagerAd.pdf

NEWS AND RESOURCES

FDA NEWS RELEASE

Please note the important news about new steps and documents from FDA-CVM described below intended to protect public health. Please share this information with others who may have an interest in this subject.

The strategies discussed in GFI #209 focus on medically important human antimicrobial drugs that are used in food producing animals that are approved for growth promotion and feed efficiency. However, there are no aquaculture drugs approved for growth promotion and feed efficiency. The primary area that could have potential impact on the aquaculture industry is the phasing in of veterinary consultation or oversight of the therapeutic uses of such drugs in food-producing animals. Currently there are two approved Veterinary Feed Directive Drugs and the aquaculture industry has experience with one, Aquaflo[®].

Regards,

Gary Jensen

FDA NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Wed. April 11, 2012

**Media Inquiries: Siobhan DeLancey, 301-796-4668,
siobhan.delancey@fda.hhs.gov**

Trade Press Inquiries: Laura Alvey, 240-276-9119, laura.alvey@fda.hhs.gov

Consumer Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA

FDA takes steps to protect public health

Agency working with animal, drug and medical communities to promote judicious antimicrobial use

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today that it is taking three steps to protect public health and promote the judicious use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when bacteria or other microbes develop the ability to resist the effects of a drug. Once this occurs, a drug may no longer be as effective in treating various illnesses or infections. Because it is well established that all uses of antimicrobial drugs, in both humans and animals, contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance, it is important to use these drugs only when medically necessary. Based on a consideration of relevant reports and scientific data, FDA is proposing a voluntary initiative to phase in certain changes to how medically important antimicrobial drugs are labeled and used in food-producing animals. FDA is taking this

action to help preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials for treating disease in humans.

Today, the FDA is issuing three documents that will help veterinarians, farmers and animal producers use medically important antibiotics judiciously in food-producing animals by targeting their use to only address diseases and health problems. Under this new voluntary initiative, certain antibiotics would not be used for so-called “production” purposes, such as to enhance growth or improve feed efficiency in an animal. These antibiotics would still be available to prevent, control or treat illnesses in food-producing animals under the supervision of a veterinarian.

“It is critical that we take action to protect public health,” said FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. “The new strategy will ensure farmers and veterinarians can care for animals while ensuring the medicines people need remain safe and effective. We are also reaching out to animal producers who operate on a smaller scale or in remote locations to help ensure the drugs they need to protect the health of their animals are still available.”

The FDA is publishing three documents today in the Federal Register.

A final guidance for industry, *The Judicious Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in Food-Producing Animals*, that recommends phasing out the agricultural production use of medically important drugs and phasing in veterinary oversight of therapeutic uses of these drugs.

- A draft guidance, open for public comment, which will assist drug companies in voluntarily removing production uses of antibiotics from their FDA-approved product labels; adding, where appropriate, scientifically-supported disease prevention, control, and treatment uses; and changing the marketing status to include veterinary oversight.
- A draft proposed Veterinary Feed Directive regulation, open for public comment, that outlines ways that veterinarians can authorize the use of certain animal drugs in feed, which is important to make the needed veterinary oversight feasible and efficient.

“USDA worked with the FDA to ensure that the voices of livestock producers across the country were taken into account,” said Dr. John Clifford, USDA Chief Veterinary Medical Officer, “and we will continue to collaborate with the FDA, the American Veterinary Medical Association and livestock groups to ensure that the appropriate services are available to help make this transition.”

For more information:

- [FAQ on today's action](#)¹
- [Final Guidance for Industry 209](#)²

- [Draft Guidance for Industry 213](#)³
- Veterinary Feed Directive (this link will expire on 4/12/2012): http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx#spec_F⁴

#

Refer to following web links for each document referenced below:

Draft guidance for industry (draft GFI #213) entitled 'New Animal Drugs and New Animal Drug Combination Products Administered in or on Medicated Feed or Drinking Water of Food-Producing Animals: Recommendations for Drug Sponsors for Voluntarily Aligning Product Use Conditions With GFI #209.'

The April 11, 2012 Prepublication FDA CVM Federal Register Notice is posted at http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-08845_P1.pdf

* The Notice is expected to be published in the April 13, 2012 Federal Register at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine is seeking public comments on the draft text of " ... a proposed regulation intended to improve the efficiency of the VFDP:

The April 11, 2012 Prepublication FDA CVM Federal Register Notice is posted at http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-08844_P1.pdf

* The Notice is expected to be published in the Federal Register on April 13, 2012 at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

The Judicious Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in Food-Producing Animals (GFI #209)" is the title of a final guidance document released by the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine which is intended to inform the public of FDA's current thinking on the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in animal agriculture.

The April 11, 2012 Prepublication FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine Federal Register Notice is posted at

http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-08846_P1.pdf

* The Federal Register Notice is expected to be published on April 13, 2012 at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>