

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the *2010 United States Animal Health Report*. This is the seventh annual report produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on the Nation's animal health status.

This year's report highlights animal health and epidemiological events from 2010 and also provides updates on APHIS Veterinary Services' (VS) programs, activities, and initiatives focused on maintaining healthy livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations. The report updates key developments in the areas of emergency management, laboratory diagnostics and biologics, disease surveillance and monitoring, and disease management and reporting.

Additionally, the report shows a shift in the way we conduct our work. In last year's message, I stated that VS is striving to evolve proactively to meet the needs and demands of the world around us. We labeled the initiative "VS 2015," but we're not waiting until 2015 to change our strategies and focus. We are committed to taking a new approach today, looking for innovative ways to enhance our services and build closer partnerships with our stakeholders—which will benefit all of us in the future.

One example of this new approach is represented by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's announcement in February 2010 about a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability. We are committed to becoming more inclusive and transparent in our rulemaking. As a result, we worked in partnership with States, Tribal nations, and industry to address the framework details, giving ample opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and the public to provide continued input throughout the process.

We also recognized that our activities and partnerships should consider the relationships among veterinary, public, and environmental health, and how we fit into the global One Health effort. The One Health initiative, endorsed and undertaken by scientists worldwide, promotes coordination between multiple disciplines to advance health care. For VS, that means we consider the interface between changing modes of livestock production and the emergence and risks of zoonotic disease.

VS will continue to evolve, enhance, and refocus our programs to meet existing and impending challenges in the animal health landscape. Our strengths, and those of our multiple partners, will help to maintain VS' position as the Nation's veterinary authority. As always, I invite and welcome your comments and ideas.

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