California Department of Food and Agriculture



EDUCATION

B.A. Economics, Rhetoric minor; University of California, Davis, 1986

Graduated with Honors

D.V.M. University of California, Davis, 1998

Phi Zeta Honor Society and various merit scholarships

California Veterinary Medical Board License: 13416

VETERINARY MEDICINE / PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE (1998-present)

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Sacramento, CA

State Veterinarian (09/10 – present): Function as the State's veterinary authority on animal health and food safety related to livestock and poultry, including policy development, quarantine and recall actions, emergency disease or contamination response and issue communication. California has the largest agricultural economy in the nation with significant dairy, beef, poultry, sheep, goat and equine sectors.

Director of the Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division (6/04-present): Manage a CDFA Division engaged in programs for animal health including population health and disease response, equine performance enhancing medication monitoring, antimicrobial use and stewardship, animal care (confinement standards), wildlife damage management, and blood bank oversight; for food safety including milk, dairy, meat, poultry, and egg safety; and for market stability including livestock ownership identification and cattle brand registration. To support animal health and food safety, administer the State contract and General Fund budget for the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, which is operated by the School of Veterinary Medicine, U.C. Davis under a contract with the Division. Interact with industry advisory groups, including eight advisory boards. Act as Division spokesperson and program expert in media interviews, legislative hearings, and at professional conferences. Manage Division legislative, regulatory, and legal issues. Provide strategic direction for the Division and secure new grants and additional appropriations for implementation.

Animal Health Emergency Programs (4/01-6/04): Facilitate emergency animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery through response planning, written outreach and oral presentations, training, inter-agency coordination, funding acquisition, and response management. Incident Commander for emergency disease outbreaks of State and national significance. Managed up to 1,500 people under incident command from a multitude of Federal, State, and local agencies. Responsible for program development including disease control strategy, short and long-term planning, rapid program expansion and appropriate demobilization, and policy development and implementation. Maintained inter-agency cooperation in the face of political, media, and job-related pressures. Provided media interviews. Identified potential litigious situations and worked with legal staff to mitigate legal action.

Veterinarian – Private Practice (6/98-4/01)

Performed all duties of a mixed animal veterinarian including hospital management, emergency response, preventative healthcare, internal medicine, and surgery. Provided health care for cattle, horses, llamas, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs and cats.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE (1986-1994)

Business Manager – Engineering Firm (1989-1994)

Developed business plans, wrote contracts and business reports, maintained or reviewed all accounting records, converted accounting system, implemented an inventory control system, approved all payroll, property and income taxes, coordinated leases and maintenance contracts, managed financial assets, and supervised staff.

Budget Analyst – Defense Contractor (1986-1989)

Analyzed and negotiated company fixed asset allocations (multi-billion-dollar annual allocations), participated in large-scale project management, provided year-end overhead account projections, and identified potential cost problems and budget solutions. Developed an understanding of company goals, the current business environment, and major limitations or roadblocks, and then worked with managers to fund projects consistent with priorities or worked to share resources across Divisions and maximized the use of funds. Supervised staff, completed a management development program, and received a productivity award and bonus.

NATIONAL OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBER:

- Western Association of State Animal Health Officials (prior President)
- National Institute for Animal Agriculture (prior Chair)
- U.S. Animal Health Association Board Member (prior Executive Committee)
- Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (prior President)
- National Animal Health Laboratory Network Advisory Committee
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (2014-2016)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture National Animal Health Information Technology Board

CALIFORNIA ORGANIZATION MEMBER:

- California Veterinary Medical Association, Legislative Committee, Agricultural Committee
- U.C. Davis Western Institute for Food Safety and Security Advisory Board
- California Animal Emergency Response System Steering Committee
- Food Safety Partners (State and Federal)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXPERIENCE:

- Operation Center Director, multiple fire, heat and flood responses
- Agency Administrator or IC, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza 2015, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25
- Agency Administrator, Vesicular Stomatitis Virus, 2023
- Agency Administrator, Neuropathogenic Equine Herpes, multiple outbreaks
- Agency Administrator, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, 2022-2023
- Operation Center Director, COVID Impact and Food Production, 2020
- Agency Administrator, Virulent Newcastle disease, 2018-2020
- Agency Administrator, Bovine Tuberculosis, 2007-08 and 2010-14
- Incident Commander, H5N8 Avian Influenza in CA Commercial Flock, 2014
- Agency Administrator, Equine Piroplasmosis and Contagious Equine Metritis, 2008-10
- Incident Commander, H1N1 Swine Flu 2009
- Incident Commander, Melamine contamination of pet food and swine, 2008
- Incident Commander, West Nile Virus, 2004
- Incident Commander, Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis, 2004
- Incident/Area Commander, California Exotic Newcastle disease emergency response, 2002-03
- Project leader for the California H6N2 avian influenza cooperative eradication program, 2002

- Participated in the California bovine tuberculosis eradication program, 2002
- Foot and mouth disease preparedness and risk mitigation in California, 2001

MEDIA EXPOSURE:

- Multiple national webinars (6,000+ audience)
- Multiple radio shows related to CDFA programs
- Exotic Newcastle disease Response Provided interviews for National Geographic channel, various TV news stations, various newspapers and magazines, town hall meetings, Exotic Newcastle disease documentary
- Media interviews regarding agriculture security in California
- Multiple radio and television media interviews related to avian influenza and food safety

AWARDS/RECOGNITION:

- National Association of State Animal Health Officials Leadership Award
- Pacific Egg and Poultry Association Scientist of the Year
- California Poultry Federation Golden Rooster Award
- United States Department of Agriculture Administrator's Award for Excellence
- US Poultry and Egg Lamplighter Award for Leadership
- United States Animal Health Association's Award for Excellence
- United States Department of Agriculture Group Honor Award for Excellence
- Food and Drug Administration Leveraging and Collaboration Award
- National Institute for Animal Agriculture Vision 20/20 Award
- California Poultry Federation Award of Merit
- Pacific Egg and Poultry Recognition of Service
- California Department of Food and Agriculture Recognition for Leadership
- Lockheed Missiles and Space Productivity Award and Bonus

CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING:

- CDFA Executive Program in Leadership Excellence
- Applied Project Management
- CDFA Media Training
- DMI Crisis Communication
- Social Networking Communication Tools and Strategies
- Incident Command System 100 through 400
- 2,000 hours as Incident Commander
- 2,000+ hours as Agency Administrator
- National Veterinary Services Laboratory Foreign Animal Disease Training; Manager Course
- U.C. Davis Non-Ambulatory Cow Management and Euthanasia Techniques
- Poultry Meat and Egg Quality Assurance Training
- Lockheed Missiles and Space Leadership Training Program

INVITED SPEAKER:

- United States Animal Health Association Annual Conferences, numerous
- National Institute for Animal Agriculture Annual Conferences, numerous
- Agricultural Industry Association Annual Meetings and Board Meetings, numerous
- International Symposium on Agroterrorism, Kansas City, Missouri
- Rural Crimes Law Enforcement Task Force
- U.S. Customs and Boarder Patrol Round Table (all California ports)
- Legislative hearings: budgets, legislation, WNV, HPAI, and food safety
- Western Poultry Disease Conference

- Western Association of Food and Drug Officials' Annual Educational Conference, AZ
- FDA Southwest Import District Strategy Meeting, Texas
- APEC Symposium on Avian Influenza, San Francisco, California
- Dairy Management Inc Risk Communication Seminars
- Federation of Animal Science Societies Seminar on Avian Influenza, Atlanta, Georgia
- Agroterrorism Symposium (Local agencies)
- Agroterrorism Assembly (California law enforcement agencies, agricultural industries)
- Agroterrorism Workshop, Arizona Department of Health and Department of Agriculture
- Agroterrorism Workshop, Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance, Baja, Mexico
- Nebraska Poultry Industries Convention
- North American Veterinary Conference, Florida
- Poultry Foreign Animal Disease Awareness, Iowa
- Executive Roundtable Seminar, Agricultural Terrorism Section
- U.C. Cooperative Extension Poultry Symposiums
- United States Department of Agriculture Satellite Seminar
- California Homeland Security Symposium
- State Standing Committee on Terrorism
- California Emergency Management Agency
- County Planning Committees
- Agricultural Commissioners' quarterly and annual meetings
- Emergency Management Training for Agriculture Emergencies numerous State local groups

PLANS/RISK ASSESSMENTS:

- Secure Food Supply, CA Strategy and Guidance, 2014, 2016
- Briefing Document: Antibiotic Resistance, March 4, 2015
- Statewide Plan for a Foreign Animal Disease Response, 2001, 2006, 2015
- California Critical Infrastructure Review, 2004-2009
- Department of Homeland Security State Homeland Security Assessment, 2003
- END Operational Plan and Standard Operating Procedures (review/approval) 2002/03
- Food and Agricultural Security in California, 2002
- Emergency Animal Disease: Regulatory Guidance for Disposal and Decontamination, 2002
- Local Planning Guide for Emergency Animal Disease Response, 2002
- Mobilization Plan for Emergency Animal Disease Response, 2001

OTHER WRITTEN OR VIDEO MATERIAL:

- Contribute to or approve all documents published by the Animal Health and Food Safety Services
 Division, including quarterly magazine articles, newsletters, factsheets, website design and content
 and other outreach material
- Food Foresight Annual Report Contributor (2018-25)
- Multiple Virulent Newcastle Disease videos
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease video
- USDA Accreditation module 40: The Veterinarian's Role in Preharvest Microbial Food Safety
- Tuberculosis Disinfectants, Foot and Mouth Disease, Anthrax and Avian Influenza fact sheets
- Emergency Programs News (quarterly)
- Various emergency animal disease outreach articles for producer journals