Welcome to the first issue of the CFSPH Bioterrorism Awareness Education Newsletter. We will be providing current information to our national trainers quarterly, as well as regular updates on the training materials, and reports from your colleagues about their experiences as trainers. Let us know if there are things you would like to see included and we will address it in future issues. As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 515-294-7189 or visit the website at www.CFSPH.iastate.edu.

**SARS**, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, has affected the health status of over 2500 people in multiple countries throughout the world. For updates on the latest information, check out Pro Med, an email list serve that is sent out twice daily with the current statistics. To subscribe to Pro Med, go to www.promedmail.org and click on the Subscribe/Unsubscribe link on the left of the screen.

The **AVMA** has approved our bioterrorism educational materials, and Dr. Radford Davis, assistant director of CFSPH, will be presenting the bioterrorism information at the annual meeting in Denver this July.

**Continuing Education credit** may be available for attendees of your presentations. Please contact your state veterinary medical board for the exact details.

**Agroterrorism** is on the minds of many livestock and crop producers throughout the nation. Many of you requested more information regarding this important topic at our training session in January. Dr. Davis has developed a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed in PDF format on his website. Just go to www.CFSPH.iastate.edu and click on the agroterrorism tab. Follow the link to the presentation. If you want the presentation in PowerPoint format with notes, contact Dr. Davis at rgdavis@iastate.edu.

The **Listserve** is up and running! We encourage all of our trainers to sign up today to receive weekly digests of the information your colleagues are providing on their presentations. Subscribe today at http://cfsph.iastate.edu/mailman/listinfo/training

34 presenters have given 60 presentations to colleagues and clients.

We have received reports from 18 different states and from Puerto Rico.

Some of the audiences have included veterinarians and veterinary students, county animal surveillance teams, kennel clubs, 4-H groups, Kiwanis clubs, Rotary groups, poultry, dairy and pork producers, emergency management personnel, quality assurance groups, and numerous radio and television audiences.

We hope this gives you some ideas of who you might target in your state to get the information disseminated to the public.

**REMINDER** If you have given a presentation, we would ask you to submit a Presentation Fax Report form as soon as possible; one is attached for your convenience.

**REMINDER** Each trainer is required to give six presentations in 2003.

We have received some words of encouragement, good comments on preparation time, and some helpful suggestions for making the presentations a positive experience. We would like to share a few of those with you.

Words of encouragement…

“Your efforts were the hit of a 3 day CE meeting with representatives from 8 states present.” *Chris Bishop, Alabama*

“This was my first presentation so the prep time (30 hours) was much more than I anticipate for future talks. I had to learn PowerPoint and review all the materials. I really enjoyed it!” *Deb Nelson, Arizona*

“The audience was intensely interested and several were surprised to hear of the threat. They had their awareness levels raised about the risk.” *Chris Mondak, Iowa*

“This was a great first presentation! Not only did I get a really good introduction out to the entire state of Vermont, … but will stimulate the public to ask for more presentations.” *Anne Bazilwich, Vermont*

Preparation time really varied with the lowest being 10 minutes and the highest being 40 hours. The majority were in the 1 to 3 hour range. We expected the time to vary with PowerPoint experience.
Suggestions:
Ask in advance what audience expectations/concerns are.
Request additional time for Q & A
Some presenters have added more information to the category A diseases in the audience specific presentations at the expense of covering the list B & C diseases, but felt it went well.
Add info on agriculturally important disease (see below—we have done just that!)
If conducting an interview for radio or television, ask the journalist for a list of questions ahead of time to best prepare.

Based on the feedback we received from the meeting in January, we have updated some of the PowerPoint slides to include your suggestions.

In another attachment you will find 9 new slides that you can incorporate into your presentation.

One of the slides illustrates how terrorism is linked to bioterrorism and agroterrorism and explains the focus of our presentation.

We have had interest in including FMD in the audience specific talks, so you will find 3 slides that address the agent, the agroterrorism threat, and the response. If you include them in your presentation, you will need to change a few other slides. Those changes are also in the “New Slides” attachment.

Finally, we encouraged you to work with your states to discover what plans were in place to help protect the citizens. We have included the “Preparing Iowa” slides for you to use as examples of the types of information you too may want to include.

There is a list of instructions available that details how to add these new slides to your existing presentation.

The notes section for these new slides are available as a PDF file for your review.

We understand the complexity of many of these presentations, and as time passes by, data can become outdated. While we are making revisions to content, we encourage all of our trainers to update the information on the slides as they prepare to use them. For example, West Nile virus is going to continue to evolve and attack rates and case fatality rates are going to constantly change. If you are scheduled to give a presentation on West Nile virus, we would encourage you to go to the websites listed at the end of this article for current data. You may even want to include the data from your state specifically for certain audience groups.

The CDC website is a great resource for many things:  www.cdc.gov
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report can be accessed at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/summary
For West Nile info:  www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control
USDA APHIS is also another great resource: www.aphis.usda.gov/vs
The World Health Organization can be accessed at:  www.who.org