JANUARY 17, 2004 marked the one year anniversary of our Orlando training. It is hard to believe that a whole year of bioterrorism awareness education and zoonotic disease training is behind us. We are proud to say 44 of the participants accomplished the goal of giving six presentations! See the “Reaching Their Goals” section on page 2 and “BT/AT Awareness Education Update” for details about the trainers and presentations given. We appreciate the efforts of all of our trainers and your dedication to educating colleagues, clients and your community. It is our privilege to provide materials and support to you and we hope you will continue to use the materials.

IN THE NEWS

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY ended 2003 with a bang in the United States. By now you have all read about the 6½ year old Holstein dairy cow from Washington state that tested positive for BSE at slaughter. It has caused the USDA to re-examine many of the slaughter protocols and changed the way we accept downer animals and euthanize cattle at the harvest facility. Things continue to evolve with this case and reports are posted almost daily on the USDA website. Over 51 countries throughout the world have stopped accepting beef and/or beef products from the U.S. Many are waiting on the results of an international investigation before deciding to allow U.S. products back into their country. The specifics on the trade ban can also be obtained at the USDA’s website. As our commitment to keeping all of our trainers updated, we will continue to update the fact sheet and PowerPoint as things evolve. Our website, www.cfsph.iastate.edu (BSE training materials) has the updated information.

CONCERNS OF SARS in China have arisen since the first of the year. One confirmed human case of SARS-associated coronavirus infection and three possible cases have occurred in the Guangdong Province. A SARS-like virus has been isolated from civets (Family: Viverridae) in Guangdong Province so some researchers believe the civets were the source of the virus. Civets are a delicacy in wild game meat restaurants in southern China. There is no scientific evidence to date that civet cats spread SARS to humans, but as a precaution, importation of civets into the U.S. has been banned until further notice to try and prevent the spread of SARS. As a control measure, over 10,000 civets were to be euthanized in a live market setting in southern China. For more information on the SARS outbreak, visit the CDC or the WHO website.

AMERICANS FACED CHALLENGES FROM INFLUENZA A virus this fall and winter with the death toll in some areas exceeding expected levels. Since September 2003, over 18,000 samples tested positive for Influenza A. By the first week of January 2004 however, most states reported decreased widespread activity. Over 4,000 samples have been subtyped with the majority being H3N2. This was also the first year for FluMist, a nasal spray vaccine recommended for people between the ages of 5 and 49. Effectiveness studies for FluMist and the traditional intramuscular vac-

MORE INFO ON THE WEB
CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov
WHO website at www.who.int

BT/AT Awareness Education Update

• 96 presenters have given 517 presentations to colleagues and clients
• Talks have been given in 47 states and Puerto Rico
• Over 19,359 people have attended bioterrorism/agroterrorism awareness education sessions!!!
• We continue to get reports about interviews written in newspapers and on the radio.
• Eight people developed the materials, 177 veterinarians were trained to deliver the presentations, and over 19,000 people attended presentations. What a multiplier effect—thank you all for your efforts and keep up the good work!!

VISIT US ONLINE @ WWW.CFSPH.IASTATE.EDU
ONE YEAR AGO, we asked our trainers in Orlando to commit to giving six presentations using the materials they received at the training. We also asked our Iowa trainers to make a similar commitment. It is with great pleasure we recognize those that achieved that goal. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work and dedication to educating others!!

Chris Bishop—Alabama
Deb Nelson—Arizona
Jamie Snow—Colorado
Joanne Brown—Florida
Lisa Conti—Florida
James Strickland—Georgia
Larry Firkins—Illinois
Janet Savill-Sizelove—Indiana
Wayne Ahern—Iowa
Richard Hubbard—Iowa
Tom Johnson—Iowa
Kim Langholz—Iowa
Andy Moeller—Iowa
Chris Mondak—Iowa
Gary Schulz—Iowa
Pam Sessions—Iowa
Rexanne Struve—Iowa
Rocky Bigbie—Kansas
Phil Prater—Kentucky
Robert Stout—Kentucky
Michael Strain—Louisiana
James Leahy—Massachusetts
Michael Bolton—Michigan
Judy Violante—Michigan
Heidi Kassenborg—Minnesota
Marian Vander Schraaf—Montana
Ken Liska—Nebraska
William Kvasnicka—Nebraska
Jon Pennell—Nebraska
Nancy Halpern—New Jersey
Clifford Sporn—New Jersey
Bryan Cherry—New York
Cricket Johnson—Seward—New York
Jon Van Berkom—North Dakota
Edward Joos—Ohio
Charles Neer—Ohio
Elizabeth Carney—Pennsylvania
Edgardo Rivera—Puerto Rico
Linda Muegel—South Carolina
Ron Blessing—South Dakota
L. Earl Rogers—Utah
Anne Bazilwich—Vermont
Kathy Connell—Washington

Many others have given numerous presentations. Continue reporting your presentations to us and we will add you to this list of achievers in future newsletters!! We will also be contacting your state organization to let them know of your accomplishment.

EVALUATION OF PRESENTATIONS

During the training session at the USAHA meeting in San Diego, we distributed forms for trainers to use to have audiences to evaluate their presentation. Our goal is that each trainer has at least one presentation evaluated by the audience. This not only helps us reflect on the usefulness of our materials but also helps to make improvements. If you would like the evaluation master form, please contact Dr. Glenda Dvorak (gdvorak@iastate.edu).

NEWS cont’d

cine are underway. A different strain of Influenza A (H5N1) is causing problems in Vietnam. Since October 2003, 14 persons have had a severe respiratory illness, 3 of which were attributed to Influenza A (H5N1). Twelve of the patients have died, the majority of which are children. This particular strain is being referred to as the “Bird Flu” as it is normally found circulating among wild birds and poultry. Initial gene sequencing by WHO officials notes that the genes are avian origin not human; which makes it more difficult to transmit disease between humans. An outbreak of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) was reported in December 2003 in poultry in South Korea and just this week Japan reported the deaths of 6,000 chickens due to the virus. CDC and WHO officials are working with Vietnamese health authorities to evaluate the situation. More information is available at the CDC and the WHO’s websites.