

# Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association

## April Updates 2024



ArVMA's mission is to improve animal and human health and the environment by protecting and advancing the veterinary medical profession.



### GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DINNER

Your Board of Directors invited the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee to dinner on April 17, 2024. Of the 20 members on the committee, 13 were present at the dinner. The attending Representatives included Jack Fortner, Chairman, Roger Lynch, Vice Chairman, Howard Beaty Jr., Cameron Cooper, Bruce Cozart, Delia Haak, Steve Hollowell, Austin McCollum, Ron McNair, DeAnn Vaught, Danny Watson, and Carlton Wing. The focus of this dinner was to build relationships based on trust, mutual respect, and shared goals. This relationship can help the ArVMA board and members build a bridge when seeking support for specific legislation. We were thankful for their time, and hope to host the committee again soon.

SCAN TO DONATE TO  
THE ARVMA PAC FUND



**Current PAC fund:**  
**\$5625.04**

Donating to a the ArVMA political action committee fund helps us support and influence political causes and candidates. A large PAC fund helps us to amplify the voice of Arkansas Veterinarians and have a greater impact over individual donations alone. With these donations, we are able to gain access to meetings with elected officials or candidates. These meetings are where we express our concerns, advocate for specific issues or seek support for our priorities. Please consider donating on a regular basis. This fund is not a savings fund; the funds are used and need to be replaced.

## HPAI OUTBREAK INFO

Since late March 2024, the USDA, FDA, CDC, and state veterinary and public health officials have been investigating the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cows. To date, there have been confirmed cases in 33 herds in 8 states with **no confirmed cases in Arkansas/Oklahoma**. Through virus sequencing, it has been determined that the strain of virus affecting cattle is the same strain that has been affecting poultry in the US since 2022 and that there is currently spread between lactating dairy cattle and poultry. Because the virus is killed in the pasteurization process and because symptomatic animals do not enter the food chain, there is no risk to consumers of beef, poultry, or pasteurized dairy products.

On Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a federal order involving the interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle went into effect. That federal order and all current guidance from APHIS are on the website <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>

Sources: Beth Ruby, DVM (Emergency Coordinator-Arkansas & Oklahoma), Melissa Clegg (Area Veterinarian in Charge, Arkansas)

### ASU Dean Search Update

ASU has completed interviews on the final three candidates to become the next Dean of the proposed College of Veterinary Medicine at Arkansas State University. The candidates are Heidi E. Cox Banse, Martin O. Furr, and Carolyn J. Henry. All three candidates come from neighboring veterinary schools and are highly qualified.



Source: K8 Newsdesk



## SOUTHWEST VET SYMPOSIUM

We are proud to be a partner state at the Southwest Veterinary Symposium 2024, taking place from September 26 to 29 at the Fort Worth Convention Center, Texas. This event is a collaboration between the Veterinary Medical Associations of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as the Oklahoma Veterinary Technician Association and the Texas Association of Registered Veterinary Technicians. It serves as a platform for continuing education for veterinary professionals in the Southwest region and across the nation. If you are looking for a FUN and ENERGETIC way to get CE, please consider this conference. Our Association benefits with each Arkansan's attendance. It's a WIN WIN situation!

Visit [SWVS.ORG](https://www.swvs.org) to register!