USDA Extends Deadline for National Veterinary Accreditation Program

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has extended the deadline for accredited veterinarians to elect to participate in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) until further notice. Currently, accredited veterinarians must elect to continue their participation in the NVAP in order to maintain accredited status.

Thousands of election to participate forms are being processed each week; however, the sheer volume of forms combined with the time it takes to process each form necessitates the extended deadline. Accredited veterinarians provide valuable regulatory services on behalf of the federal government. Allowing currently accredited veterinarians to continue performing their accredited duties after they have elected to participate but before they have received their renewal date from APHIS ensures that these veterinarians can continue to provide accredited services to the public.

To date, approximately 50,000 veterinarians have elected to participate in NVAP, and another 10,000 are expected to do so. Processing the applications is time consuming, involves verifying data on each application and often means contacting one or more people to make certain the information entered in the NVAP database is correct.

During this extended deadline period, APHIS will continue its outreach efforts to ensure that accredited veterinarians who have not yet elected to participate do not inadvertently let their accreditation lapse.

For additional information and application forms to elect to participate, please see www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health
and click on Veterinary Accreditation.

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