



Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

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Protecting People, Pets and Livestock - Yesterday, Today and Always.

PRESS RELEASE

ALVMA HOSTS 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

April 4, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAYETTEVILLE, TN. - The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA) held its 27th Annual Conference for Food Animal Veterinarians on February 23-25, 2018, at the Alabama 4-H Conference Center in Columbiana, AL. The conference was a great success, boasting larger numbers than recent years with attendees traveling from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Originally established in 1992 by Dr. James G. Floyd, to provide continuing education focused on timely topics for veterinarians engaged in food animal practice, the program has seen many different Chairs and boasted great success over the years. During 2006, Dr. Soren Rodning assumed the reigns of Program Chair, and then more recently, Dr. Andrew Lovelady became Co-Program Chair for the conference. Together, Dr. Soren and Dr. Lovelady worked diligently to create a program for food animal veterinarians that everyone could enjoy while receiving over 23 credit hours of continuing education. The mission of this conference is to bring together practitioners, industry, regulatory and academic veterinarians in an environment that is conducive to free exchange of ideas and issues important to food animal veterinary medicine.

The Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana was chosen as the meeting site because of its central location combined with excellent housing, dining and the relaxed rural setting. Because of the comprehensive facilities at the 4-H Center, attendees could remain there during the entire meeting, allowing extra time to interact and socialize with veterinary colleagues, industry reps and speakers. At the time the conference began, the 4-H Center issued no keys to the hotel rooms and even today the cell phone coverage is spotty, minimizing distractions while enhancing the opportunities to concentrate on the meeting itself.

This year's conference began with a Pharmacy/Law review presented by Dr. Sue Duran and Ms. Starr Miller, both from Auburn University. Dr. Tami Kelly, from Mitchem Sparks Regional Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory, Boaz, AL, completed the first day with a session and wet lab on Backyard Poultry.

The second day was filled with excellent speakers discussing topics such as Cow-Calf Herd Health and Parasite Control (Dr. Christine Navarre, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA), Equine and Small Ruminants (Dr. David Pugh, Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, Auburn, AL), Diagnostic Lab Submissions (Dr. Heather Walz, Thompson Bishop Sparks State Diagnostic Lab, Auburn, AL), and a special panel of State Veterinarians consisting of Alabama (Dr. Tony Frazier), Tennessee (Dr. Charlie Hatcher) and Georgia's Assistant State Veterinarian (Dr. Janemarie Hennebelle).

Saturday evening was a true crowd pleaser with a steak dinner and the Downie Award presentation. The Downie Award program is popular among returning attendees and new attendees, alike. The participants share practice tips and stories related to veterinary medicine. Typically, the Downie is awarded to the story that receives the most laughs. This year's Downie, was awarded to Dr. David Tyree of Addison, AL for his story, "Let me see that monkey". The Downie Award is artfully crafted by Dr. Arvle Marshall from Opelika, AL, each year.

The conference wrapped up on Sunday with a special devotional in the early morning, followed by updates from Dr. Robert Harris from the USDA-APHIS and Alabama State Veterinarian, Dr. Tony Frazier from the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries. Dr. Misty Edmondson (Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine) completed the conference with a session on Common Diseases in Sheep and Goats.

ALVMA would like to thank all attendees and speakers for helping to make this conference a great success. ALVMA would also like to extend a special thank you to our exhibitors and sponsors, Boehringer Ingelheim, Newport Laboratories and Henry Schein Animal Health for their participation and continued support of this conference.

For more information regarding this conference, please visit our website, alvma.com. Mark your calendars for March 15-17, 2019 and make plans to attend next year's conference!

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