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Agricultural Outlook Forum 2004

Presented: February 19, 2004
10:45 a.m.

Session: Implications and Interactions with Government, Scientific, and
Academic Community

Impact of the Select Agent Rule on Veterinary Laboratories

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Impact of the Select Agent Rule on Veterinary Laboratories

- ❑ **New SA Rule added agencies, labs, agents, activities**
 - Coordination required
 - Phases useful but deadlines difficult to meet
- ❑ **The rule is expensive to implement**
 - Zoning in University settings
 - Retrofitting older facilities
 - BSL-3 space for storage and use is limited
 - Security equipment, personnel, recordkeeping
- ❑ **7-Day provision impairs function**
 - Restricts full work-ups, characterization
 - More definition on “threshold of identification” needed

Impact of the Select Agent Rule on Veterinary Laboratories

❑ Exclusions and exemptions are helpful

Exclusions for fixed tissue and genetic elements

Exemptions for vaccine/QC control strains and diagnostic specimens

More 'advertisement' of exemptions needed

❑ Rule helps increase attention on the biosafety and biosecurity of the agents

Specialists hired or focused

Chain of custody, shipping addressed concurrently

Impact of the Select Agent Rule on Veterinary Laboratories

❑ Inspections

- Have gone well for the most part
- More training of inspectors needed
- Checklist needs refinement
- Double-inspection is a concern

❑ Personnel

- Clearance procedures are slow
- Accompaniment is difficult (esp. in biocontainment)

❑ Associated activities

- Permits for movement need streamlining