

CEAH Realignment Announced

A realignment of the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) in Fort Collins, CO, has been announced by CEAH Director Larry Granger. The realignment proposal was based on recommendations from the CEAH management team as well as CEAH employees.

The changes will include a renewed focus on shared priorities, projects, and multidisciplinary teams across the centers. Among the goals are improved communication, both internally and externally, and development of a consistent look and feel for CEAH products and services with less emphasis on individual unit identification.

A key component of the realignment is a new Office for Collaboration and International Coordination. CEAH is designated as a collaborating center of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for animal disease surveillance and risk analysis. As an OIE collaborator, CEAH helps build, maintain, and promote internationally accepted, science-based methods for risk analysis and animal disease surveillance. The new office will focus on strengthening CEAH's collaboration on animal-health issues and projects both domestically and internationally. The office will also direct CEAH's public relations efforts.

CEAH's four centers – Center for Emerging Issues (CEI), Center for Animal Disease Information and Analysis (CADIA), National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), and National Surveillance Unit (NSU) – will also undergo some changes.

- CEI will continue to retain the Tracking, Analysis and Forecasting and Business Intelligence units and the Spatial Epidemiology Team; in addition, CEI will include the Risk Assessment Team, which will move from CADIA.
- CADIA will include the Technology Application and Data Analysis group and the Application Information Management unit. Other changes are still under consideration pending the outcome of ongoing reviews of the center.
- NAHMS will continue to coordinate and collaborate on monitoring animal-health and production trends of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations and contribute to animal disease awareness education for

producers and veterinarians. As part of the realignment, NAHMS will dedicate more resources to focus on adding value to other VS programs.

- NSU is responsible for planning, designing, and prioritizing surveillance activities; coordinating and integrating surveillance information; analyzing and reporting data; and evaluating surveillance programs. NSU will add new staff positions to fulfill its obligations to VS to coordinate the ongoing development of the National Animal Health Surveillance System.